

ADVENTURES FOR PRESCHOOL ARTISTS



SMART

ART



Squishy things

Play-dough
Salt dough
Cornstarch dough
Coffee grounds dough
Soapy dough
Breadcrumb dough
Sawdust dough
Paper dough

Goopy things

Gak
Silly putty

Sticky things

Lick it later glue
Cornstarch glue
Paper mache glue
Salt, Sand and glitter

Paints and chalk

Finger paints
 Starch
 Soap
 Flour
 Cornstarch
Homemade watercolors
Egg tempera
Milk tempera
Starch tempera
Soap flake paint
Dough paint
Fake oil paint

Smart Art

Since the beginning of time, Art has been created through experimentation and a desire for self-expression. Sometimes the beauty of the art has been in the ***process not the product***. Man has continually experimented with different forms of art media trying to transform what was in his head and heart into a visible form. The earliest of man discovered varied pigments where available from each rock or clay he used.

In the preschool setting the beauty of the art is usually found in the process, the ***experimentation***, the exploring. Preschoolers are masters in this area. Their minds continually ask why and how. A good teacher must put the ideal of the perfect product aside and allow for discovery. The best answer to preschooler's questions about works in art is "Let's try it and see what happens." Followed by a question that encourages more experimenting like "What will happen if you add more..." "What does that feel like."

The end product of the art should be measured in imagination, creativity and confidence.

It's the process not the product that counts.

Having said this, I hope to give you some art ideas that the children will find fun and that will actually produce some interesting and artistic results. Just like a conductor of an orchestra directs the group, encourages each musician and controls the tempo you will be the director in your classroom, ***introducing skills, controlling the environment, and supplying the materials.***

Even a great artist needs some ***inspiration*** and direction to produce a masterpiece. Likewise your students need a ***clear objective*** in mind and some direction. Examples of famous art can be shown, Previous student examples are great inspiration. Partially done samples the teacher started even work for motivation.

Be flexible as teacher, It's okay if all the people are blue (There really are Blue men, a famous group in Las Vegas) It's okay if they made a fossil print with the glue bottle.

It's not okay to loose control and let preschoolers paint each other blue.

Praise the good. Whether the end product is great or they did a great job mixing or using a brush or squishing the clay compliment them on what they did well. Confidence in art is a fragile thing. ***Nurture*** it along with sincere compliments.

Expect mess but control it by being smart about the work area, the materials, the time limit and the rules. (Your art stays on your art not your neighbors or the table etc.) Also expect students to assist in the clean up. If your picky about how the brushes are cleaned have all the students put dirty brushes in the brush bucket and you can clean them later but at least the children were able to help in the clean up by ***organizing*** the mess.

Not all of us have a natural gift for art but all of us can be ***smart about art***. We can learn what the materials can do. We can learn to appreciate when others make something beautiful. We can enjoy the process knowing that the product is not as important as the experience we had making it. I mean really have you ever seen a gorgeous mud pie? I haven't but I sure have had some great times making them. Also I learned in the process things like balance, form, colors, rhythm, unity and harmony.

Remember that the art that is created in the classroom is to ***teach the child, build confidence, and nurture appreciation*** not to have a pretty project to take home. Although many of these projects will be pretty or cool or even pretty cool that should not be your main objective as you guide the child. Remember that you are helping the child to build confidence and creativity, imagination and appreciation ***of things aesthetic***.

WONDERFUL WATERCOLORS



Watercolors can be used to create many beautiful effects. Five hundred years ago *Albrecht Dürer* used watercolors to paint the details of nature. His tiny, controlled brush strokes formed realistic blades of grass, leaves, and flowers. Fifty years ago *Emil Nolde* watered down his colors so his brush strokes could make bold, flowing flower petals. Watercolors give the artist wonderful choices in artistic expression. Now you can discover these choices for yourself by controlling the amount of water on your brush, the intensity of the color, and the size of your brush.



★ WATERCOLOR CAKES ★

This concoction starts with a magical fizz and ends with a colorful, dried cake. You can make a set of cakes just like the watercolors you buy in a store — but when you make your own you can control the intensity of the color. Your binder will be cornstarch. (Store-bought watercolors are held together with gum arabic from the acacia tree.)

Just swirl a wet brush into the cake, and let the art start!

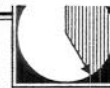
WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) clear vinegar
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) baking soda
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) cornstarch
- 1/2 teaspoon (2 ml) corn syrup
- Food coloring
- Three small, plastic bottle lids
- Small paintbrushes

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Mix vinegar and baking soda in a bowl.
- 2 When the mixture stops fizzing, add cornstarch and corn syrup.
- 3 Blend together. The mixture will have a strange, cakelike consistency.
- 4 Divide the mixture among the three lids. For each color, blend in a few drops of food coloring with a paintbrush. (Brighter colors = more food coloring.)
- 5 Use immediately, or, after the colors have dried into cakes, swirl a wet brush into each color to start painting.

Tissue Collage



Materials

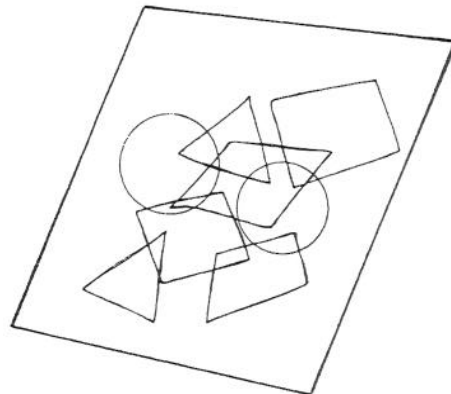
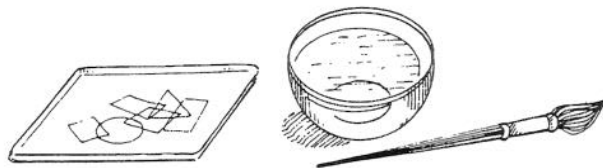
- art tissue paper in a variety of colors
- scissors
- tray
- liquid starch in a cup
- paintbrush
- white paper, matte board or paper plate

Art Process

1. Cut several colors of art tissue paper into squares, triangles, rectangles or any shapes from one to three inches in size. Place the shapes on a tray.
2. Dip a paintbrush into liquid starch and brush it on the paper, matte board or paper plate.
3. Press a piece of tissue into the starch.
4. Paint a little more starch over the tissue paper.
5. Continue adding more and more pieces of tissue paper and starch, overlapping them to create new colors.
6. The artist may choose to cover all or part of the background.
7. Dry the project completely.

Variations

- Work on wax paper, plastic wrap or any variety of background papers.
- Use clear contact paper and stick the art tissue pieces to the sticky side of the contact paper. Then cover the artwork with another piece of contact paper. No starch is needed.
- Substitute thinned white glue with starch for a stronger and glossier creation.



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BASICS



- When the tissue pieces are painted with starch the color or dye runs out of the paper. Although this is a pretty effect, it can also surprise some artists.
- Keep both a wet rag and a dry rag handy to clean up sticky fingers.

ARTIST'S CHOICE!

Don't stop at aliens. How about making an octopus with eight dangling legs? A horse could have its head, legs, and tail jointed. You can even joint a person for a traditional marionette.

Insert a thin dowel through the bottom of the puppet. The jointed parts will wiggle when you shake the stick.

★ WOODY DOUGH ★

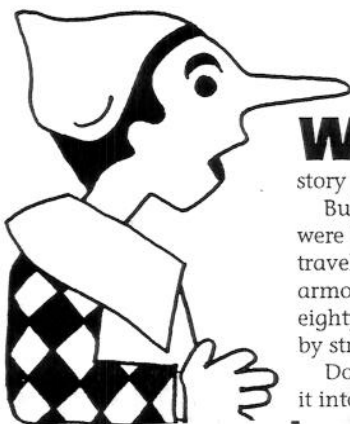
Use woody dough when you want the natural look of wood, clay, or stone. This dough is coarse, so it is best suited for chunky creations — pots, bowls (see page 116), and other simple pieces. Roll it flat for cookie cutter shapes. Let your art dry for two to three days. You can then smooth it with sandpaper and glaze it with a clear acrylic sealer to bring out the nice wooden finish.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 cup (250 ml) sawdust
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) flour
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) water
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) liquid starch or white glue (optional)
- Sieve or piece of screening

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Sift the sawdust through the sieve. You only want sawdust in your dough — not splinters or chunks of wood.
- 2 Mix all ingredients together. Depending on the type of sawdust used, you might need to add more water or flour.
- 3 Gather the mixture in your hands. Press it into a firm glob.
- 4 Knead the glob until it feels like a workable dough.



PINOCCHIO



Why do people love the story of Pinocchio? It's probably because we like to dream that a piece of wood could really come to life. The magical story was written by the Italian author Carlo Collodi over 100 years ago.

But people have enjoyed puppets for an even longer time. Clay marionettes were found among the ancient ruins of Rome. Later, troupes of puppeteers traveled all over Italy using marionettes to tell stories of knights in shining armor. Sometimes marionettes were five feet tall (150 cm) and weighed over eighty pounds (35.5 kg). They had to be held up with iron rods and operated by strong puppeteers.

Do you hear any voices in that lump of Bread Crumb Dough? If so, mold it into a puppet!

★ DOUGHY PAINT ★

Place doughy paint in a squeeze bottle or zip-style sandwich bag to make thick, puffy lines. Squeeze a design onto cardboard or heavy paper. Doughy paints add a nice finishing touch to papier-mache sculpture. They can be used to outline shapes or add details to a tempera painting, too.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1/4 cup (50 ml) flour
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) salt
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) water
- 2 tablespoons (25 ml) tempera powder
- Plastic squeeze bottle

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Mix all ingredients together until evenly blended.
- 2 Pour into plastic squeeze bottle or substitute.



VAN GOGH'S WAY

Would you rather have paint or food? *Vincent Van Gogh* chose paint. He was truly a poor, starving artist who could barely afford the paint for his passion. He loved thickly applying paint to the canvas. Some Van Gogh paintings almost look three-dimensional, like sculpture. The brilliant colors stick out over a centimeter from the canvas.

WHAT YOU NEED

1 tablespoon (15 ml) flavored gelatin mix

2 tablespoons (25 ml) boiling water

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Pour gelatin into a heat-proof container.
- 2 Ask a grown-up to add the boiling water. Stir with a fork until gelatin is dissolved.



When the gum in your container sets into a hard gelatin, simply set the container in a pan of hot water to turn back to a liquid.

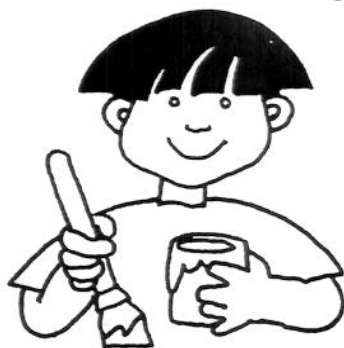


ARTIST'S CHOICE!

Brush sticker gum onto the back of a small picture. Let dry. Later you can stick your picture on paper by just licking or wetting the back.

These mixtures also work as "Stick-It-Now" gums. Brush them on the back of any paper you want to stick down.

LICK-IT-LATER STICKER GUMS



Create Lick-It-Later Sticker Gums when you want to make something easy to stick in the future. Spread the gum thinly on the back of a small picture. Let it dry. Moisten the back when you are ready to stick the picture onto cardboard or paper. Sticker gums are perfect for making your own stickers, seals, labels, stamps, and envelopes.

Lick-It-Later Gum I is made from a packet of unflavored gelatin. Lick-It-Later Gum II is made from instant dessert gelatin. They both gel nicely onto paper. Use whichever type of gelatin you have handy.



★ LICK-IT-LATER GUM I ★

WHAT YOU NEED

1 packet (1/4 oz or 6.25 g) unflavored gelatin

1/4 cup (50 ml) boiling water

1 tablespoon (15 ml) sugar

1/4 teaspoon (1 ml) food flavoring (optional)

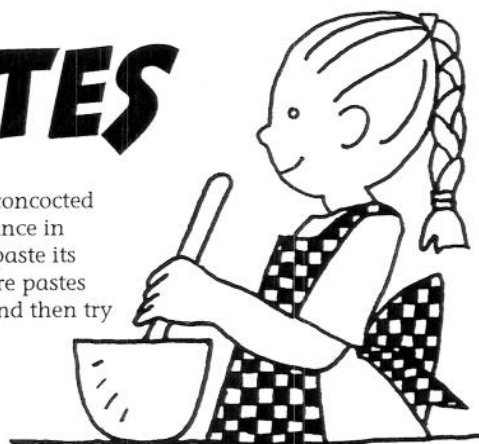
WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Pour gelatin into a heat-proof container. Ask a grown-up to add the boiling water. Stir with a fork until gelatin is dissolved.
- 2 Add sugar and stir until dissolved.
- 3 Add flavoring such as vanilla, maple, or lemon. Or, add a few drops of peppermint oil. Stir.



PAPER PASTES

Mix a little flour with a little water, and you've concocted an amazingly sticky adhesive. *Gluten*, the substance in flour that holds bread together, also gives flour paste its sticking power. The concoctions in this section are pastes that work well for gluing paper. Mix them up, and then try them out on some Sticky Stuff projects.



★ SUGAR PASTE ★

WHAT YOU NEED

1/4 cup (50 ml) sugar

1/4 cup (50 ml) flour

1 cup (250 ml) water

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Mix sugar, flour, and water in a pot.
- 2 Ask a grown-up to help you with the cooking. Keep stirring as you heat the mixture.
- 3 Simmer until the mixture looks like pudding.
- 4 Store in a covered container in the refrigerator.

★ CORNSTARCH PASTE ★

WHAT YOU NEED

2 tablespoons (25 ml) sugar

1/2 cup (125 ml) cornstarch

1 cup (250 ml) water

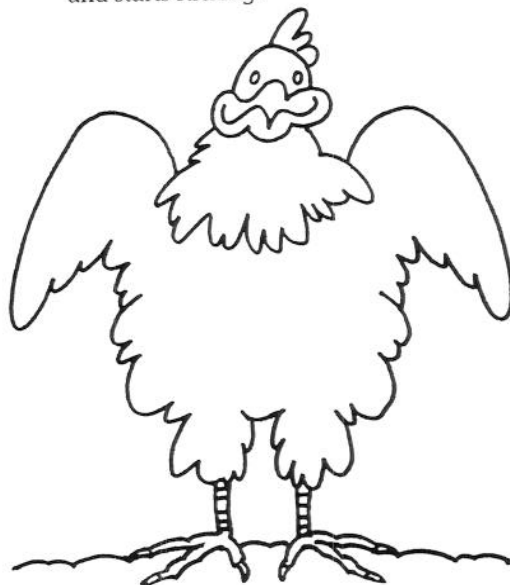
WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Mix cornstarch and sugar with a little bit of the water in a pot. Stir until it forms a paste.
- 2 Gradually add the rest of the water and stir.
- 3 Ask a grown-up to help you cook the mixture until it looks like pudding.
- 4 Store in a covered container in the refrigerator.



CHICKEN GLUE?

Have you ever noticed the puddle of jelly around a cold chicken from last night's dinner? That's a form of glue. Some glues are made from bones, hides, and sinews. These natural materials are heated, processed, and dried to make a glue powder. The craftsperson adds water to the powder and starts sticking!





SPECIAL PAINTS

From Bubble Paint to Body Paint, special paints are unique art concoctions you'll love trying again and again. Each time you mix one up, think of new ways to create with these terrific concoctions.



★ ALMOST-OIL SOAP PAINT ★

WHAT YOU NEED

1 tablespoon (15 ml)
powdered tempera

1 tablespoon (15 ml)
dishwashing soap

Paintbrush

This great concoction has the "feel" of an oil paint. The colors go on smoothly and can be blended together right on the paper.



WHAT YOU DO

Mix powdered tempera and dishwashing soap together until evenly blended.

★ BUBBLE PAINT ★

WHAT YOU NEED

For each color:

2 teaspoons (10 ml) dishwashing liquid

3 tablespoons (40 ml) water

1/4 cup (50 ml) powdered tempera

Straw and paper

Newspaper

Have you ever wished you could save a bubble? While you can't keep a bubble from popping, you can save its print before it does. This crazy concoction makes unusual sheets of paper covered with glorious bubble prints. Start blowing!



WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Mix tempera, water, and dishwashing liquid in a jar. Stir. To brighten the color, add more tempera.
- 2 Set the jar on newspaper to protect the work surface. Gently blow the straw in the paint mixture. **Absolutely do not suck in.** The mixture tastes horrible and will make you sick! Keep blowing until the bubbles overflow.
- 3 To capture a bubble print, gently roll a piece of paper on top of the bubbles. They'll leave a print on your paper before they burst.
- 4 Lay the paper flat to dry.

ARTIST'S CHOICE!

★ Repeat with as many colors as you like.

★ Use the paper to slice through the head of bubbles and capture them on top of the sheet. Let the bubbles burst by themselves.



MUNCH'S WAY

Edvard Munch, a Norwegian artist who painted in the late 1800s and early 1900s, often used long, wavy lines to express emotion, movement, and even sound in his paintings. He made smeared-looking images that created strong reactions from those who observed them. One of his most famous paintings is called *The Scream*. You can almost hear the sound as you look at the painting.

Although Munch didn't use finger paints, finger painting is a wonderful way for you to experience Munch's painting style. Create a picture using wavy lines bordered by more wavy lines — like ripples in the water — with your fingers. You may even wish to close your eyes and imagine as you paint!

★ FLOUR FINGER PAINT ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) flour
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) water
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) liquid detergent
- Food coloring or powdered tempera

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Combine flour, detergent, and water in the mixing bowl. Stir until they form a smooth paste.
- 2 Divide into bowls and blend in coloring. Or, blend in the color as you finger paint.

ARTIST'S CHOICE!

For some good, clean fun, whip up a batch of Soap Flake Finger Paint before your next bath. Finger paint the bathtub walls.

Use white Soap Flake Finger Paint on dark-colored paper.

★ SOAP FLAKE FINGER PAINT ★

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1/4 cup (50 ml) soap flakes (see page 27)
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) warm water
- Food coloring
- Eggbeater

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Add a small amount of soap flakes to water in bowl; then beat.
- 2 Continue adding and beating until mixture looks like whipped cream.
- 3 Divide into bowls and blend in coloring. Or, blend in the color as you finger paint.

Fingerprints



Materials

choose one of the following for the color:

- food coloring (dip fingers in liquid placed in a jar lid)
- felt pens (color fingertips)
- ink pads (press fingertips onto pad)
- tempera paints (press fingertips on pads of damp paper towels and paint)

paper

fine tip felt pens for adding features

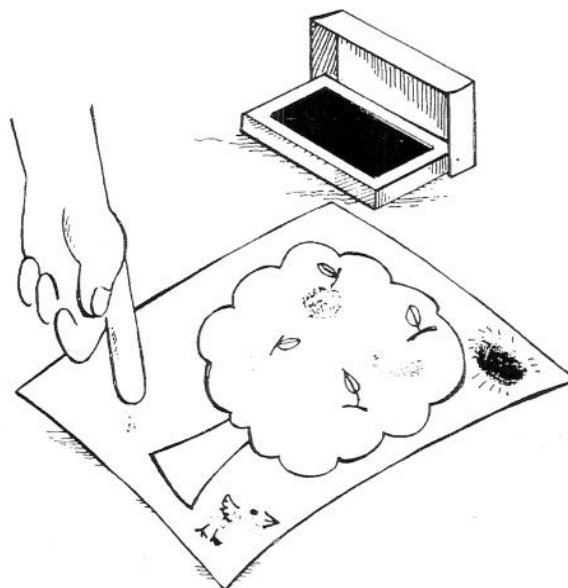
soapy water in bucket and towel for clean up

Art Process

1. First choose one of the coloring methods.
2. Color a favorite finger or thumb with the chosen color.
3. Press the colored finger onto the paper. The artist may press several times before re-coloring.
4. Dry the artwork.
5. Add details to the fingerprints with fine felt tip markers such as features, hats, cars or feet.

Variation

- Draw a picture with a crayon and then add fingerprints to enhance the drawing. Some examples include: fingerprint blossoms in a crayon tree or flower pot, fingerprint hair on a funny face or fingerprint bugs on a crayon branch.



Some artists enjoy messy hands and fingers; other artists find the mess almost unbearable. Some of the aversion is due to a developmentally recognized correlation between messy hands and potty training. The aversion usually passes and artists become comfortable with messy hands and fingers again as they get older.



Dough wise: Each dough concoction has a feel all its own — one that you can best discover by making the dough and working with it in your hands. Some of these dough concoctions will seem best suited to making a large sculpture, while another concoction may feel most suitable for a fragile ornament, a three-dimensional picture, or a funky piece of jewelry. Never underestimate the power of dough. A humble glob of dough can be transformed into a noble queen puppet, fabulous jewelry as nice as you can buy in any craft shop, or even a back-to-the-future fossil. All it takes is a little creative inspiration and some basic dough-wise skills.

★ NO-COOK FLOUR DOUGH ★

No cooking means you can make this simple dough without grown-up help and begin creating instantly! The more you knead, the better the dough gets.

WHAT YOU NEED

2 cups (500 ml) flour

1 cup (250 ml) salt

1 cup (250 ml) water



WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Combine flour and salt in a bowl. Stir.
- 2 Add water and mix thoroughly.
- 3 Gather the mixture in your hands. Press it into a firm ball.
- 4 Put the ball on a clean surface and knead until you have a smooth dough.

EXPERIMENT WITH PROPORTION

Proportion is the relationship of the amount of one ingredient to another. Instant flour dough is made from flour, salt, and water. But in what amounts? You can have flour make up four-fifths of the concoction for a stiff dough or only half of the concoction for a softer dough. You be the master dough-maker. Use this chart as a guide for varying the proportion of flour to salt. Which proportion do you think makes the best dough?

| Flour | Salt | Water |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 4 cups (1 l) | 1 cup (250 ml) | 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) |
| 3 cups (750 ml) | 1 cup (250 ml) | 1 1/3 cups (325 ml) |
| 2 cups (500 ml) | 1 cup (250 ml) | 1 cup (250 ml) |
| 1 cup (250 ml) | 1 cup (250 ml) | 2/3 cup (150 ml) |

★ COOKED FLOUR DOUGH ★

Ah, the wonderful feeling of warm dough! Start molding as soon as it has cooled just enough to handle comfortably. This dough is nice and elastic. It's crumble-free and the oil makes it slow drying, allowing you plenty of time to work and rework your creation.

WHAT YOU NEED

2 cups (500 ml) flour

1 cup (250 ml) salt

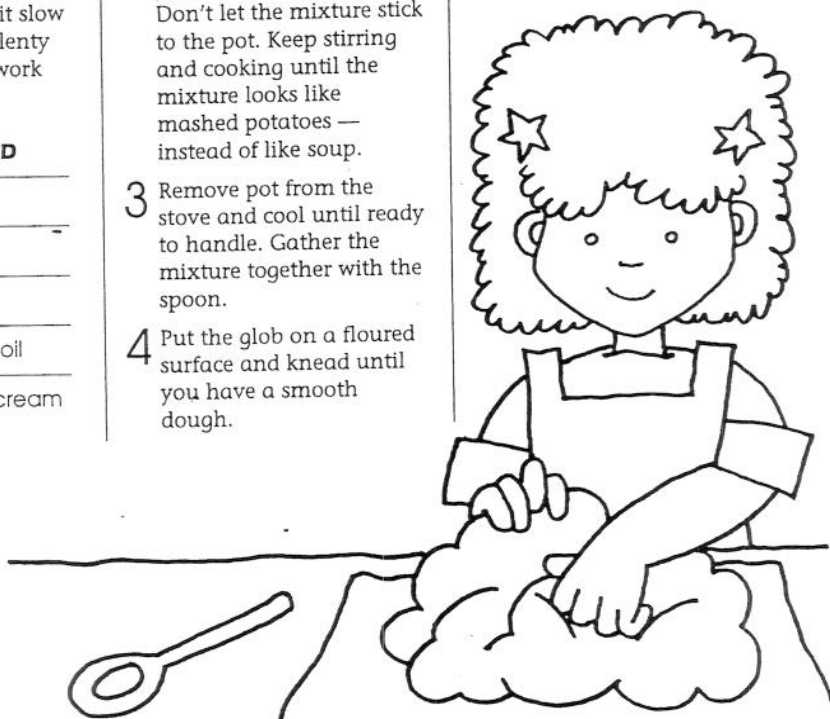
2 cups (500 ml) water

2 tablespoons (25 ml) oil

1 tablespoon (15 ml) cream of tartar

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Combine all ingredients in a pot.
- 2 Ask a grown-up to help you stir over low heat. Don't let the mixture stick to the pot. Keep stirring and cooking until the mixture looks like mashed potatoes — instead of like soup.
- 3 Remove pot from the stove and cool until ready to handle. Gather the mixture together with the spoon.
- 4 Put the glob on a floured surface and knead until you have a smooth dough.

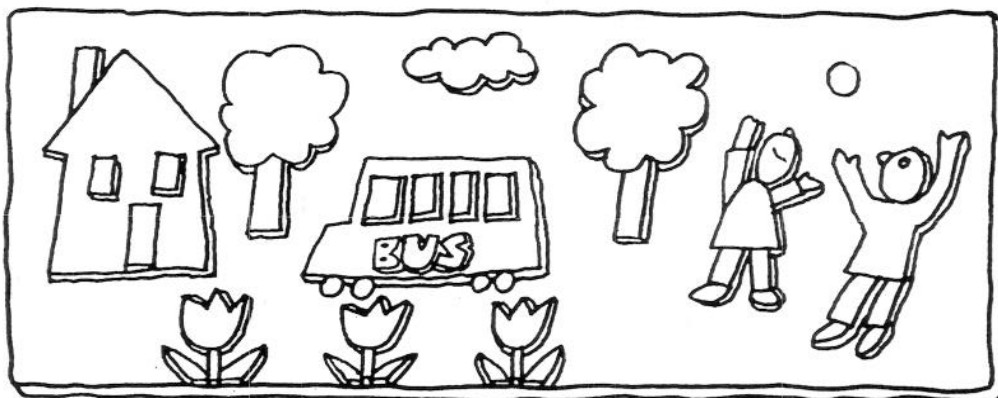


Do you knead your dough? Please do! Kneading is the most important part of working the dough. Start with a dough glob on your work surface. Push it down with the heels of your hands. Fold the dough over and push it down again. Do this again and again until the dough feels smooth and elastic.

What's happening? Kneading releases the *gluten* which is a protein in the flour. Gluten forms the "glue" or structure of the dough, making it stretchable and nice to work with. So your dough will be much happier if it's needed — I mean kneaded!

WHEN IS A SCULPTURE NOT A SCULPTURE?

Not all sculpture stands on its own. Sometimes raised images are sculpted right out of a picture. This art form is called *bas-relief*. Ancient people used bas-relief to retell great events. Figures jut out of the background, making the picture seem more real and exciting. How about making a bas-relief of a great event in your life? Just follow the Sculpt-a-Picture directions.



★ CORNSTARCH DOUGH ★

This dough is very soft in texture and white in color. It is especially well suited for making ornaments and jewelry.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 cup (250 ml) cornstarch
- 2 cups (500 ml) baking soda
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) water

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Combine all ingredients in a pot.
- 2 Ask a grown-up to help you stir over low heat. Don't let the mixture stick to the pot. Keep stirring and cooking until the mixture looks like mashed potatoes — instead of like soup.
- 3 Remove pot from the stove, cool slightly, and gather the mixture together with a spoon.
- 4 Put the glob on a floured surface and when cool enough to handle, knead until you have a smooth dough.

★ BREAD CRUMB DOUGH ★

This dough has a chunky, rustic look. It works nicely for small works of art such as beads, as well as larger pieces such as puppets. The dough dries with a smooth finish. When dry, paint pieces with a mixture of one spoonful of white glue mixed with one spoonful of water. Apply two or three coats. Let each coat dry before applying the next.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 3 slices of white bread
- 1–3 teaspoons (5–15 ml) white glue
- 1/2 teaspoon (2 ml) liquid detergent or 1 teaspoon (5 ml) glycerin

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Remove bread crusts. (Give them to the birds.) Crumble bread into tiny crumbs by tearing it apart in your hands. Work over a mixing bowl.
- 2 Add liquid detergent and one tablespoon (15 ml) of glue. Mix well with your hands. Add more glue if it is needed to hold the dough together. (Different breads hold together differently.)
- 3 Gather the mixture together and knead. The more you knead, the less sticky the dough will become.
- 4 Wrap unused dough tightly in plastic to store, because it hardens quickly.
- 5 Let finished art air dry on waxed paper. Turn from time to time so they don't stick to the paper.



Yeast Dough

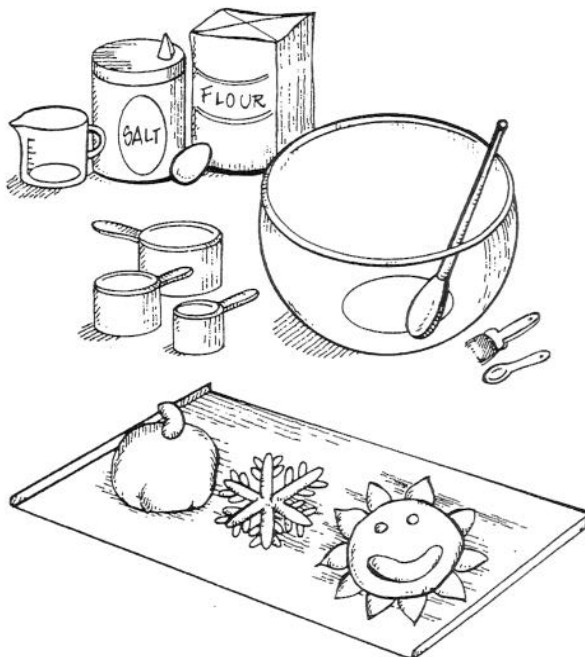


CLAY

Materials

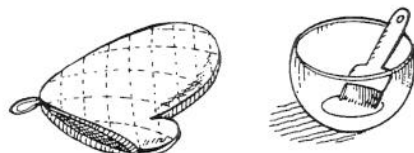
1 package yeast
1-1/2 cups (345 ml) warm water
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
4 cups (800 g) flour
measuring cups and spoons

large bowl and mixing spoon
greased cookie sheet
pastry brush
1 egg, beaten
salt (optional)
oven



Art Process

1. With adult help, measure 1-1/2 cups warm water into the large bowl. Sprinkle yeast into water and stir until soft.
2. Add the salt, sugar and flour. Mix until dough forms a ball.
3. Knead on floured surface until smooth and elastic.
4. Roll and twist dough into shapes such as letters, animals and unique shapes.
5. Place the dough sculptures on a greased cookie sheet. Cover and let rise in a warm place until double in size.
6. Brush each sculpture with beaten egg. Sprinkle with salt (optional).
7. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes at 350 degrees until sculptures are firm and golden brown.
8. Cool slightly. Eat and enjoy! Yum!



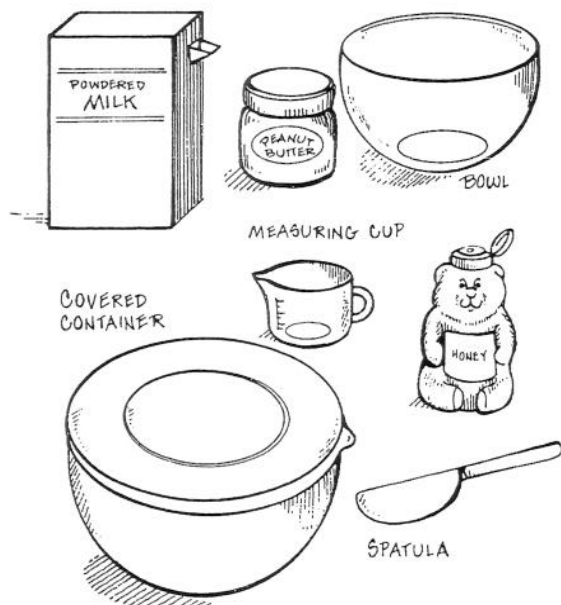
• Use this delicious dough to make healthy, seasonal treats such as jack-o-lanterns in the fall, snowflakes in the winter, bunnies in the spring and great big suns in the summer.

BASICS



Peanut Butter Dough

DOUGH



Materials

measuring cups and spoons
1 part peanut butter
1 part non-fat dry milk (powdered milk)
1 tablespoon honey per cup, optional
bowl
spatula
kneading surface
covered container

Art Process

1. Wash and dry hands before beginning this edible dough.
2. Mix equal parts of peanut butter and dry milk together in a bowl by hand.
3. Add honey if desired.
4. Knead and mix the dough until it has a stiff, dough-like consistency.
5. Model and experiment with the peanut butter dough like any playdough.
6. Eat and enjoy your art creation!

Variation

- Add other ingredients such as raisins, shredded coconut, chocolate chips or bits of dry breakfast cereal into the dough or use to decorate the dough designs.



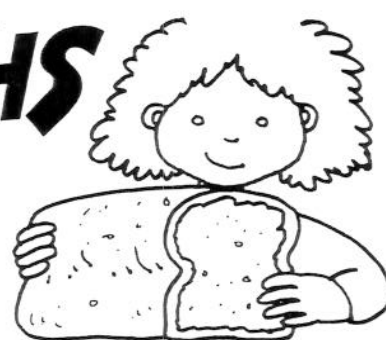
- One cup of peanut butter and one cup of dry milk makes a nice ball of dough for one child.
- This dough models fairly well but does not harden.
- This dough keeps well in a covered container in the refrigerator.

BASICS



CRAZY DOUGHS

Add sawdust and coffee grinds to dough? Sculpt with soap or sandwich bread? Concoct these doughs and you'll be convinced, crazy doughs are as practical as they are unusual.



★ SOAPY DOUGH ★

This dough has a very chunky texture. It's fine for projects that don't require a lot of details. An added benefit — the soapy sculptures you make can also help keep you clean!

WHAT YOU NEED

2 cups (500 ml) soap flakes
(see page 27)

1/2 cup (125 ml) hot water

Eggbeater

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Pour soap flakes and water into a bowl. Add a few drops of food coloring if you wish. Beat until evenly mixed.
- 2 Gather the mixture in your hands. Press it into a firm glob. Place the glob on a pie plate.
- 3 Shape in any way you like.
- 4 Let your project dry for several days. Enjoy it as sculpture or use it as soap.



84 • KIDS' CRAZY CONCOCTIONS



MOLDING PASTES

Molding pastes are great when you want to shape paper and hold it together at the same time. This is what you do with papier-mache. Use these pastes for both strip and mash papier-mache projects (see pages 99–100). Try either paste out by making the Comical Sun Hat on page 86.

Molding pastes can also be used for basic paper-sticking. The instant variety lets you get started right away without grown-up help. The cooked kind is a bit smoother and nicer to work with. Both types work well.



★ INSTANT FLOUR MOLDING PASTE ★

WHAT YOU NEED

1/2 cup (125 ml) flour

1/2 cup (125 ml) water

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Stir flour and water together in a bowl. The paste should look thick and creamy. Add more water or flour, if necessary.
- 2 Store in a container in the refrigerator.

★ MAKE AN IMPRESSION ★



Use the parts of your hand to recreate the footprint of a real or imaginary animal (see Mystery Tracks, page 44). Instead of making a print with paint, press your nails, fingertips, or the edge of your hand into the dough to leave an impression.

Coffee or tea leaf doughs are great for making fossils. Their speckled texture gives your "fossils" an authentic look.

WHAT YOU NEED

Coffee Dough, page 68

Can or dull knife

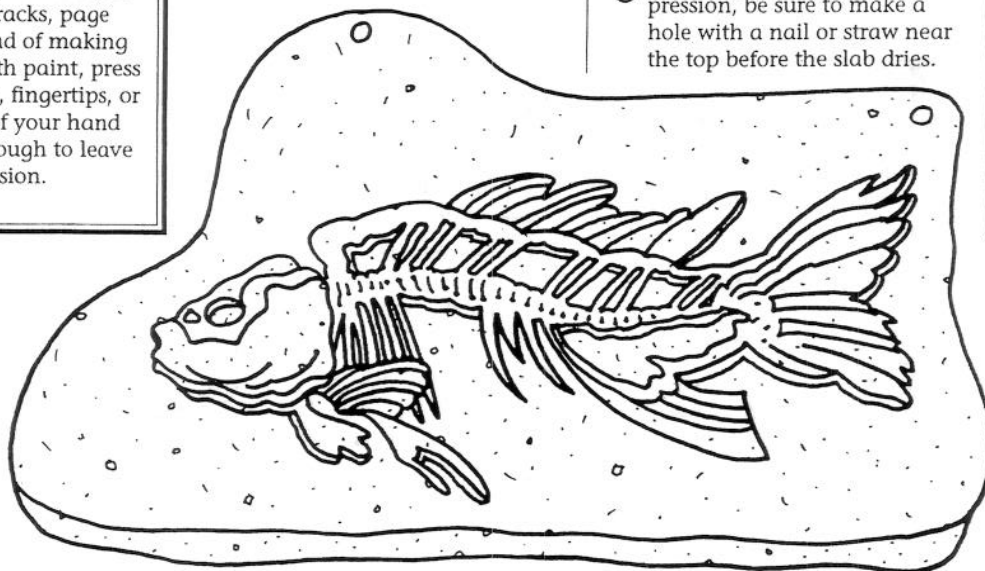
WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Roll dough to about 1/2 inch (1 cm) thick. Use a can to cut out a circular shape, or cut the slab into any shape you want.
- 2 Now press a special object or objects into the dough. Remove the object and you'll be left with its impression.
- 3 If you wish to hang the impression, be sure to make a hole with a nail or straw near the top before the slab dries.



The following make interesting impressions:

- ★ Leaves
- ★ Twigs
- ★ Your hand
- ★ Your baby-sister's foot
- ★ Nuts and bolts
- ★ Shells
- ★ Kitchen gadgets
- ★ Pet's paw print



★ COFFEE DOUGH ★

Coffee dough has a natural look when it dries. The brown color and coffee-grind speckles in this concoction will make your art work look as if it's made from stone.

WHAT YOU NEED

1 cup (250 ml) flour

1/2 cup (125 ml) salt

1 cup (250 ml) used coffee grinds

1/2 cup (125 ml) cold, left-over coffee

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Stir until blended.
- 2 Gather the mixture together with your hands.
- 3 Knead on a floured surface until you have a smooth dough.
- 4 Store dough in a plastic bag or margarine tub.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

There's an old legend told by Middle Easterners about a goatherder named Kaldi and the discovery of coffee. One day while tending to his flock, Kaldi noticed his goats were acting silly. When he ate some of the berries the goats were enjoying, Kaldi discovered why the goats were so excited — the berries were delicious and made him feel energized! Kaldi then told the world about his marvelous discovery, and that is how some believe coffee came to be.



WHAT YOU NEED

Egg yolk (save egg white for Painting of Egg & Gold, page 25)

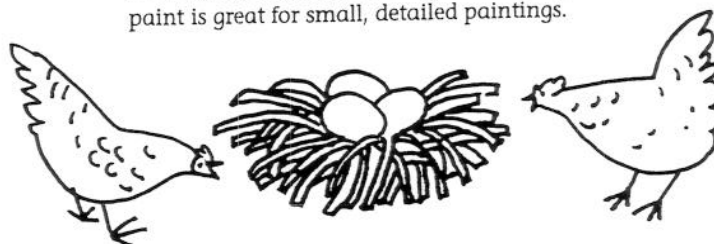
Water

Tempera powder

Small paintbrush

★ EGG TEMPERA ★

Mix up this favorite paint concoction that artists used centuries ago. This opaque paint is great for small, detailed paintings.



- 1 Break up the egg yolk in a bowl. Measure 2 teaspoonfuls (10 ml) and put in the jar.
- 2 Add 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of water. Blend.
- 3 Add 1 teaspoon (5 ml) of powdered tempera. Stir with the small paintbrush until mixture is smooth.

TRIMMED IN GOLD

More than five centuries ago *Gentile da Fabriano* painted with egg tempera on a wooden panel. His magnificent painting, *Adoration of the Magi*, showed people dressed in fancy clothing and horses with beautiful harnesses in the countryside. To make his painting even more fantastic, da Fabriano added gold metal by hammering thin sheets of gold into the spots he wanted to shine.



★ A PAINTING OF EGG & GOLD ★

Paint an egg and gold masterpiece like that of *Gentile da Fabriano*.

WHAT YOU NEED

Stiff piece of paper

Pencil, small paintbrush, newspaper

Several colors of egg tempera

Egg white

Gold glitter

ARTIST'S CHOICE!

Use egg tempera to paint a design on a hollowed-out egg. Use the egg white to glue on glitter. Nothing is wasted in this art project!

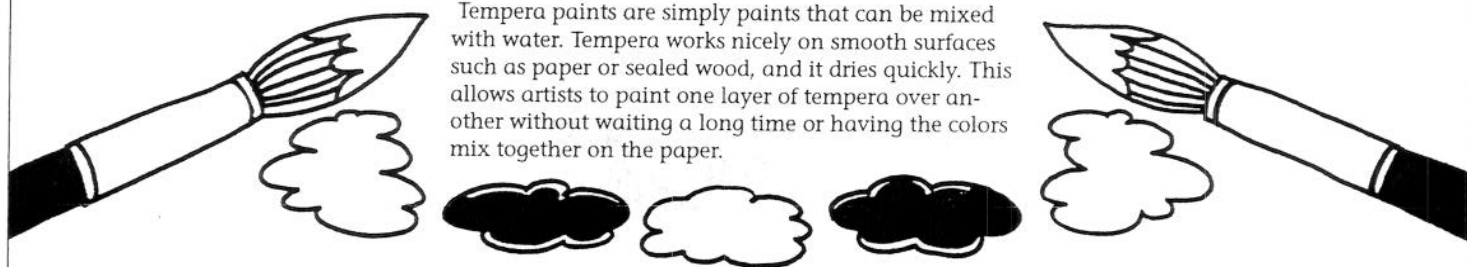


WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Use a pencil to sketch in a few guidelines for your picture.
- 2 Mix up your egg tempera setting aside the egg white.
- 3 Paint your picture using egg tempera. Let it dry.
- 4 Paint lines or splotches of egg white where you want the gold to be. Sprinkle the egg white with gold glitter. Let the glitter sit for about 15 minutes. Gently lift the paper over the newspaper to shake off the extra glitter.

TEMPTING TEMPERAS

Tempera paints are simply paints that can be mixed with water. Tempera works nicely on smooth surfaces such as paper or sealed wood, and it dries quickly. This allows artists to paint one layer of tempera over another without waiting a long time or having the colors mix together on the paper.



★ BASIC TEMPERA ★

This is a rich, all-purpose paint. Use it for any painting project from coloring papier-mache bananas to painting a backyard landscape. The colors are *opaque* which means you can't see through them.

WHAT YOU NEED

1/4 cup (50 ml) powdered tempera

2 tablespoons (25 ml) water

Paintbrush

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Mix powdered tempera and water in a jar, until paint is evenly mixed and smooth.
- 2 Adjust consistency as you like by adding more powder or water.

★ MILK TEMPERA ★

This is similar to Basic Tempera. Simply substitute 2 tablespoons (25 ml) milk for the water in the Basic Tempera concoction. Make only enough for a day or two. Store, just like milk, in the refrigerator.

Milk Tempera is more opaque and somewhat creamier. Mix up a batch of Milk Tempera and Basic Tempera. Test them out by painting different strokes on paper. Which do you prefer?



★ STARCH TEMPERA ★

Starch Tempera applies very smoothly. You can make an interesting textured paint by adding 2 tablespoons (25 ml) of salt to this recipe.

WHAT YOU NEED

2 tablespoons (25 ml) powdered tempera

2 tablespoons (25 ml) liquid starch

Paintbrush

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Stir the tempera and starch in a jar, until paint is evenly mixed and smooth.
- 2 Adjust consistency as you like by adding more powder or starch.



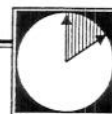
★ PAINT A MURAL ★

Murals are paintings made right on the walls or ceiling of a building. The ancient Egyptians drew murals thousands of years ago that showed how people lived, including people making bread dough and using "saddlestones" to grind the flour.

Why not create a mural of your own that shows how things are done in your house. Place a large piece of butcher paper on newspapers on a washable floor. Then, using tempera paints, paint pictures of people who live in your house, and the types of activities that happen there, too. Try using broad strokes and bold colors to fill up the paper. Invite some friends or family members to join in the mural-making fun.



Tissue Contact



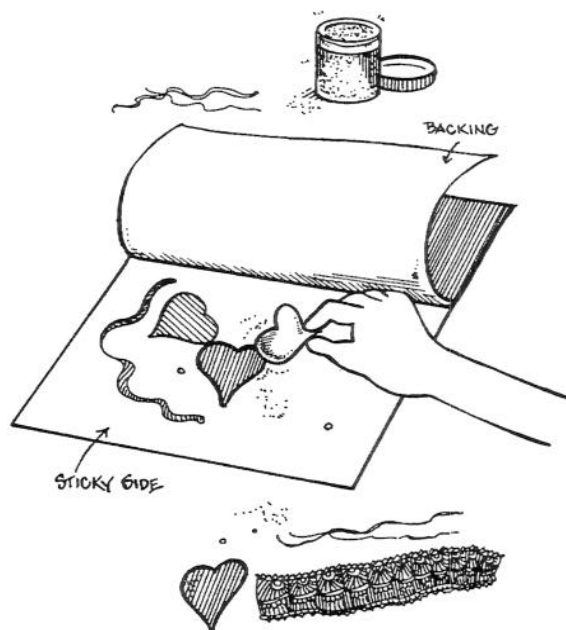
COLLAGE

Materials

clear contact paper
art tissue, variety of colors
scissors
hole punch
yarn
optional collage items such as bits of lace, thread, confetti,
glitter or hole punches

Art Process

1. Cut a rectangle of clear contact paper about six by twelve inches (15 cm x 30 cm) or any other size.
2. Fold the rectangle in half. Peel the backing half way off the back, stopping at the fold.
3. Lay the clear side of the clear contact paper on the table, sticky side up.
4. Using any little torn or cut pieces of art tissue, attach them to the sticky contact paper. No glue is necessary. Holiday shapes such as hearts or flowers can also be used.
5. When a design is complete, pull the remainder of the contact paper backing off.
6. Fold over the remaining contact paper and stick it to the design.
7. Take scissors and trim the ragged edges.
8. If desired, punch a hole in the top of the design, add a piece of yarn and hang the artwork in a window or near a light source.



The folding steps can be very wrinkly and off center depending on the ages and abilities of the artists. Accept this outcome.

Variation

- Cut the finished contact paper design into a heart shape for a pretty Valentine.

Ironed Wax Paper



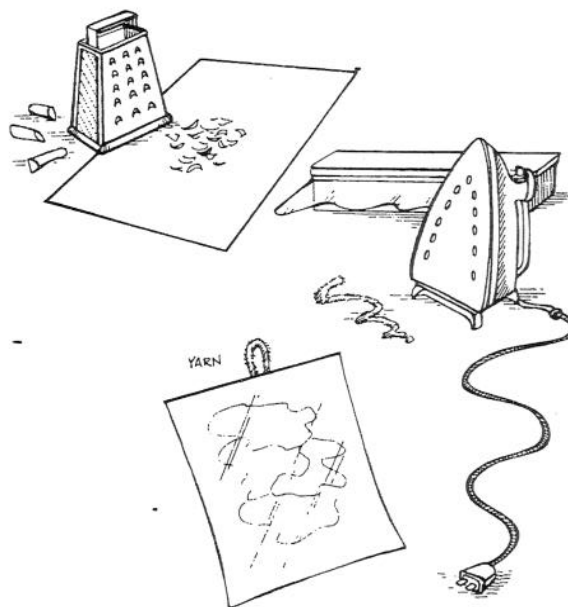
DRAWING

Materials

old pieces of crayons, peeled
old cheese grater
wax paper cut into 8" x 10" (20 cm x 25 cm) pieces
newspaper
old iron set on warm
scissors
yarn, optional

Art Process

1. Work on a thick pad of newspaper.
2. Place a sheet of wax paper on the newspaper.
3. Grate crayons onto the sheet of wax paper.
4. Cover the crayon shavings and wax paper with a second sheet of wax paper.
5. Cover this with another sheet of newspaper.
6. **Adult** irons over the newspaper to melt the crayon shavings beneath and "glue" wax paper pieces together.
7. Remove the top newspaper. Trim the excess edges of the wax paper with scissors. Glue a piece of yarn to the project if the artist wishes to hang the design in a window.



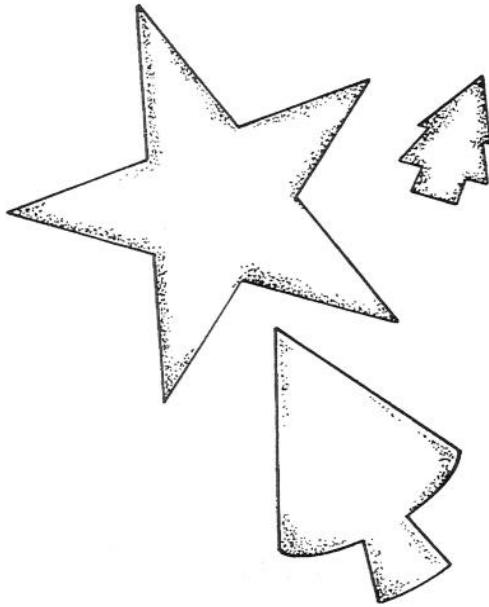
With careful supervision the artist can do the ironing. Most children can be very careful.
Tape the iron cord in place so artists in the room don't trip over it.

This project should be supervised by an adult at all times.

Variations

- Wax paper can be used in a variety of sizes or shapes. You may choose to frame the finished project with colored paper.
- Sometimes pressing straight down with the iron and then lifting it straight up (instead of rubbing it back and forth) creates different designs in the melted crayon.

BASICS



Materials

cinnamon sticks
sandpaper
scissors

Art Process

1. Cut the sandpaper into any shapes or use as is.
2. Draw on the sandpaper with a cinnamon stick.

Variations

- Cut the sandpaper into holiday shapes and string on yarn with other decorations between each shape. You can use styrofoam peanuts, pieces of foil, pieces of colored paper or wrapping paper, playdough beads or other interesting items. Hang the garland from the ceiling around the room. Mmmmm, it smells nice too!
- Cut little squares of sandpaper and string a necklace on yarn. Punch holes with a paper punch in the small cinnamon squares of sandpaper. This makes a nice smelling necklace.
- Glue glitter or yarn to the edge of the sandpaper designs to decorate.



HINT

- Sandpaper is difficult to cut and can dull scissors.
- Young artists like to really scribble and scrub the cinnamon on the sandpaper for the fragrance more than the design.



Corncob Print

Materials

dried corncobs without kernels
tempera paint on cookie sheet
corn holders or nails
large paper
covered work area

Art Process

1. Save corncobs after corn has been eaten and dry them on a shelf.
2. Pour puddles of paint on a cookie sheet or tray.
3. Push corn holders into the ends of the corn cob to use as handles while painting. If holders are not available, an **adult** can push nails into each end of the cob. If this doesn't work, just hold the ends of the cob with fingers.
4. Roll the corn cob through the paint on the cookie sheet like a paint roller.
5. Roll the paint covered cob across the large sheet of paper. Roll one long line or use back and forth movements. Make designs or any other shapes.
6. Dry the artwork.

Variation

- Use the corn cob print for gift wrap or backgrounds for other projects.

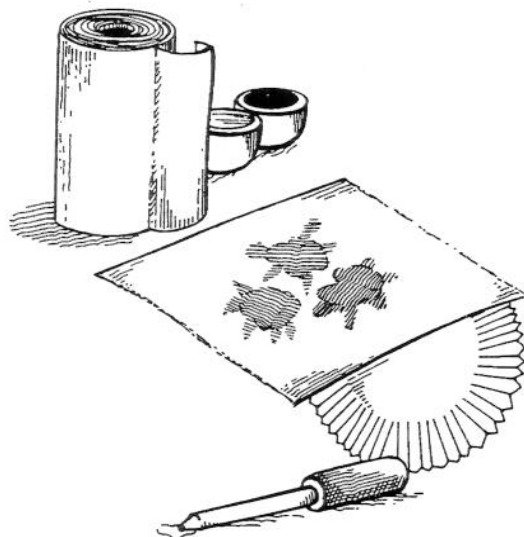


HINT

- Sometimes this project works best on the floor so active artists can really roll the corn.
- Corn cobs can be rinsed in water, dried and used again.

Paper Drop Dye

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Materials

variety of papers—rice paper, coffee filter, blotting paper or paper towels
food coloring in several bowls
eyedroppers
newsprint to cover table

Art Process

1. Cover the table with newsprint.
2. Place a piece of absorbent paper on the newsprint.
3. Fill an eyedropper with color from one bowl and drop a spot of color onto the paper.
4. Use another eyedropper to add another color. The colors will blend to make a pattern.
5. Transfer the paper to a clean piece of newsprint to dry.

Variations

- When the project is dry, paper can be cut into a snowflake design, used as wrapping paper or hung in a window to enjoy the bright colors.
- Fold and dip the paper into the bowls of color instead of using the eyedroppers.
- Use powdered paint or fabric dye available from art stores instead of food coloring. Although these dyes seem expensive, they last a long time, go a long way and come in an amazing rainbow of bright colors.



HINT • Many young artists become absorbed in the blending of colors and end up with a substantially soaked piece of paper which can be difficult to move. Work on a sheet of newsprint sturdy enough to hold the finished artwork that can be lifted and carried to a drying location.

- Expect fingers and hands to be stained. The color can take several days to wash out. Protect clothing with an old shirt or smock.

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Dip and Dye Papers

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Materials

one of the following papers—coffee filters, paper towels, napkins, ink blotter or white tissue paper
covered table
sheets of newsprint
cups of food coloring or paper dye
eyedroppers
drying area

Art Process

1. Cover a table with thick layers of newspaper.
2. Place sheets of newsprint around the table like placemats where each artist will work.
3. There are several techniques in Dip and Dye. The easiest one is to first place a paper towel on the newsprint and then squeeze drops of food coloring or paper dye from an eyedropper onto the paper towel. Another technique is to fold the paper towel and then dip the corners of the towel into the cups of dye. Unfold carefully and place the towel on the sheet of newsprint. A coffee filter is perhaps the best paper to fold and dip in the cups of dye.
4. Experiment with dipping and dying any of the papers suggested.
5. Carry the wet dyed towel or paper on the sheet of newsprint to a drying area and dry for an hour or so. If dying a thin paper such as white tissue, unfold the wet dyed paper as far as possible without tearing and dry overnight. Finish unfolding the dry paper the next day. When completely dry, iron the paper with adult help if necessary.



HINT • Paper dyes are available at art stores in jars of highly concentrated powdered dyes. Although fairly expensive, the dyes will last for years and the colors are incredibly bright and vibrant. In the long run, the powdered dyes are cheaper and better than food coloring.

BASICS

Glossy Pen Paper



Materials

heavy, glossy paper (available from scrap bin in print shops)
felt pens
paintbrush and cup of water, optional

Art Process

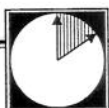
1. Visit a print shop and collect heavy, glossy paper used to print posters and color brochures.
2. Draw on the paper with felt pens, feeling the pens slide as the colors glide about.
3. If desired, dip a paintbrush into clear water and smudge and blur the pen marks like "paint-with-water."

Variations

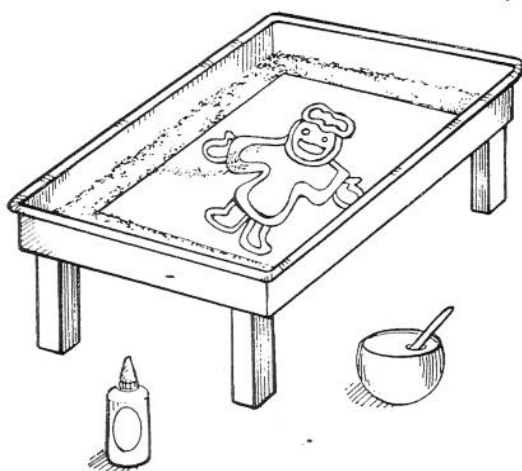
- First dampen the paper with a sponge and then draw with felt pens on the wet, glossy paper.
- Experiment with felt pens on other unusual types of paper.



HINT • Ask a local printer to save a box of papers in all colors, textures and sizes. Printers are valuable sources for free and unusual paper for children, parents or teachers.



Sand and Glue Drawing



Materials

sand in large, wide tub (a sand table works well)
white glue in bottles
white glue in cup with a paintbrush or cotton swab
paper, posterboard or matte board

Art Process

1. Place a sheet of paper, posterboard or matte board in the tub on the surface of the sand.
2. Draw a design on the paper with the glue from a bottle or with a paintbrush dipped in the cup of glue.
3. When the design is complete, scoop handfuls of sand from the tub and cover the entire paper with sand.
4. Pick up the paper from the corner and let the excess sand fall back into the tub.
5. Set sand drawing aside to dry.

Variations

- Fill a yogurt cup half full of sand, add some powdered tempera paint and stir the sand and paint together to make colored sand. Make several colors in different cups. Use the colored sand for drawings by sprinkling pinches and bits of sand in specific places on the design rather than an all over design as above.
- Make sand drawings on the playground or the sidewalk. Do not use any glue. Simply squeeze dry sand from a mustard squeeze bottle making lines, dots and other designs directly on the sidewalk. Sweep away the sand when complete.



HINT • Clean sand can be purchased from hardware stores.
• If blobs of glue-sand fall into the tub from the paper, let them dry and remove when hardened.

Chalk and Liquid Starch



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Materials

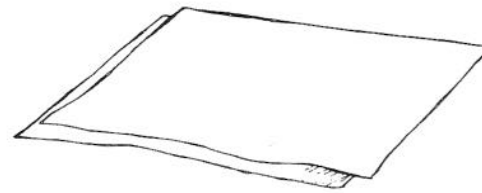
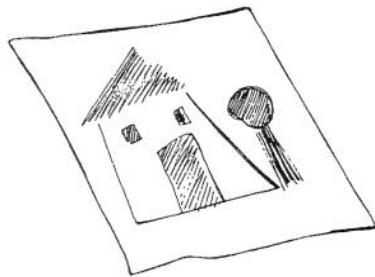
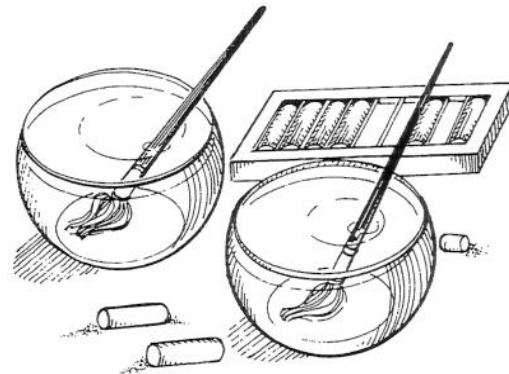
small containers filled with liquid starch
small paintbrushes
poster chalk or pastels

Art Process

1. Brush the starch over the paper.
2. Draw on the paper with chalk.
3. The liquid starch brightens the chalk colors and reduces the powdery smudging of the chalk drawing. Drawing will still smudge.
4. Dry the completed art project.

Variation

- Dip the end of the chalk into the starch in the small container and draw on paper with dampened chalk.



- Sometimes it helps to break big pieces of chalk in half or into smaller pieces for younger artists.
- Liquid starch can be saved and re-used for other projects requiring liquid starch.

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BASICS

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Shoe Polish Leaves

Materials

supple autumn leaves
shoe polish in bottle with applicator (variety of colors)
variety of papers
covered work surface
extra sheets of newsprint
bucket of soapy water
nail brush
towel

Art Process

1. Collect fresh autumn leaves in a variety of shapes and sizes.
2. Place a leaf on a piece of newsprint, face side down.
3. Dab shoe polish over the back surface of the leaf.
4. Select a piece of paper and lay it gently on the shoe polished leaf. Press and pat the paper gently over the leaf.
5. Peel the paper and leaf apart revealing a shoe polish leaf print on the paper.
6. Select another leaf, change polish colors or make a print on a new sheet of newsprint.

Variations

- Place a leaf on a sheet of paper. Dab shoe polish around the edges of the leaf, brushing out from the edges onto the paper. Remove the leaf and a stencil design will be left.
- Experiment with patterns and designs, types of paper and color of shoe polish.

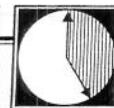


- Shoe polish stains hands and fingernails. Have a soapy bucket of water close by with nail brush and towel for clean up.
- Shoe polish leaf prints show the veins and features of leaves in detail.

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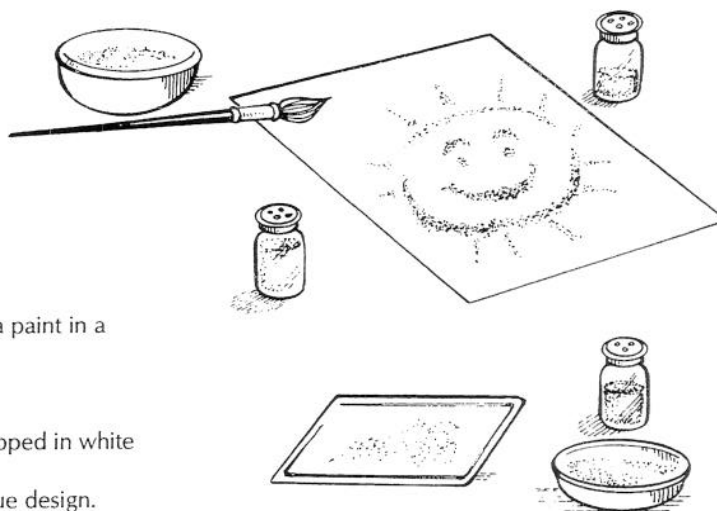


Salty Paint Shake



Materials

bag of table salt
powdered tempera paints
containers (margarine or yogurt)
white glue in small jars
paintbrushes
trays
salt shakers
paper



Art Process

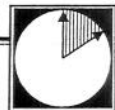
1. With adult help, mix salt with powdered tempera paint in a container.
2. Put the colored salt into a salt shaker.
3. Make additional colors for other salt shakers.
4. Paint a design on the paper with a paintbrush dipped in white glue.
5. Shake the colored salt from the shaker on the glue design.
6. Shake excess salt onto the tray to be used again.

Variation

- Use white beach sand instead of salt. Sand can be purchased in bags at a hardware store or brought home from the seashore or river.



- Some children do better squeezing the white glue out of a glue bottle instead of painting it on the paper.
- Instead of shakers, younger children may control the colored salt better when a plastic tub is filled with about one inch of colored sand. The paper is placed into the tub. The artist can use hands to pour sand on the glue design. Pour extra sand back into the tub. This gives a thicker coloration and design.



Glitter Paint Shake

Materials

matte board or cardboard
white glue, thinned with water in a cup
paintbrushes
salt or cheese shakers with large holes
powdered tempera paint
glitter



Art Process

1. Paint the entire surface of the matte board or cardboard with thinned white glue.
2. Fill shakers with powdered tempera and glitter.
3. Shake the paint glitter mixture onto the glue.
4. Dry the project for a long time.



- Powdered tempera can be inhaled. It is a good idea to wear paint filter masks or doctor's masks while shaking the powdered paint. Artists enjoy this.
- This project takes a long time to dry, so have a shelf or drying area where it can remain undisturbed for several days.

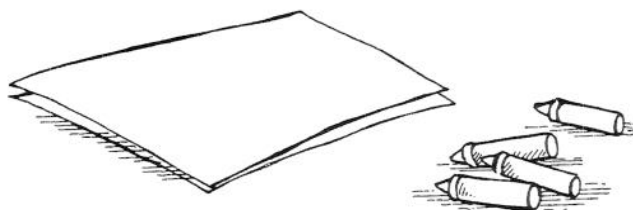


Transparent Crayon



Materials

white paper
crayons
cooking oil
cotton balls
newspaper to cover table

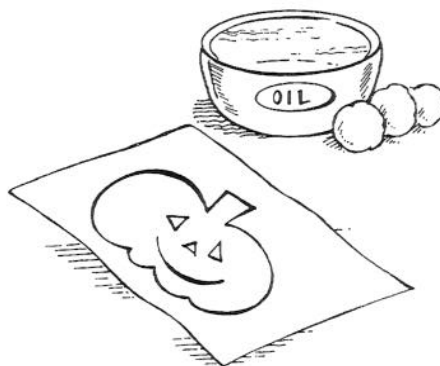


Art Process

1. Place white paper on the newspaper.
2. Draw freely with crayon on the white paper, pressing hard.
3. Rub a small amount of cooking oil over the back of the white paper using a cotton ball.
4. Dry the oil and crayon design on fresh newspaper.

Variations

- Use baby oil or mineral oil in place of cooking oil.
- Use a paintbrush to spread the oil instead of cotton balls.
- Experiment with different types of paper.



- HINT**
- Have a bucket of soapy warm water handy to wash oily hands.
 - Some artists may not like the feeling or results of oil. Remember this is normal for young children.

Baby Oil Drawing



Materials

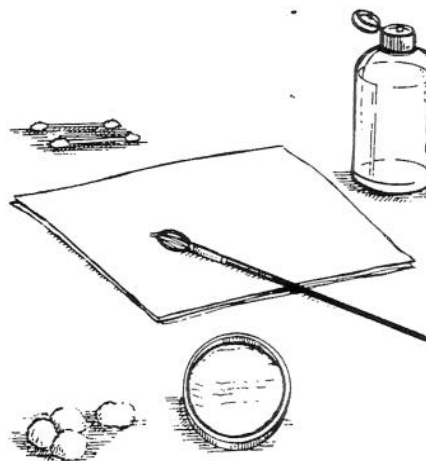
bond paper, any color
cotton balls, cotton swabs or a paintbrush
baby oil in small dish
newspaper covered table

Art Process

1. Dip the cotton ball into the dish of baby oil.
2. Draw a design on the paper with the oil soaked cotton ball.
3. Dip other drawing tools such as a cotton swab or a paintbrush into the oil and draw on the paper.
4. After the oil soaks into the paper, hold the drawing up to the light and look at the transparent design.

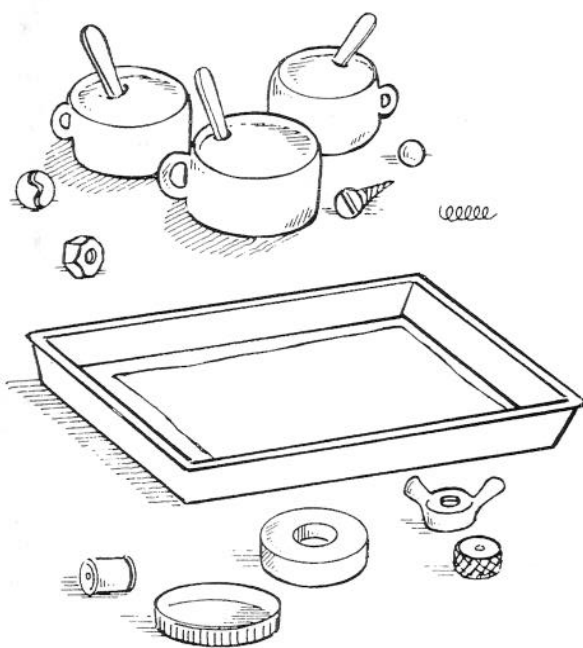
Variations

- Use watercolors to paint a design on the baby oil drawing and observe how the oil resists the paint.
- Use crayons to draw on the paper and then rub the drawing with baby oil on a cotton ball to enrich the colors.



- HINT**
- To prevent tipping dishes of oil during use, stick a loop of wide masking tape to the bottom of the dish, and press dish to table surface.
 - Each drawing may take many cotton balls to complete since many young artists are apt to explore the delightful qualities of the soft, oily cotton ball.

Tilt Prints



Materials

items to use for printing such as small balls, nuts and bolts, marbles, pieces of small toys or other small rolling items
several colors of tempera paint in cups with spoons
shallow baking pan
paper to fit pan
bowl of soapy water and towels

Art Process

1. Place the paper in the baking pan.
2. Select some rolling items such as nuts and bolts or marbles.
3. With a spoon drop puddles of paint on the paper.
4. Drop the rolling items into the pan and tilt the pan around, rolling them through the paint and making designs on the paper.
5. Dry the completed artwork.
6. To wash up, drop painted items into the bowl of soapy water and wash. Wash hands too. Dry the items and hands.

Variations

- Use a round cake pan with a paper plate in it.
- Put a puddle of paint on an incline board covered with paper and roll the same items through the paint down the board.
- Roll hard-boiled eggs through paint puddles in a plastic dish pan to decorate the eggs.



- HINT**
- Experiment with different items to roll. Some items make amazing prints that surprise everyone.
 - Items used for tilt prints may not come completely clean.

Paint and Print



Materials

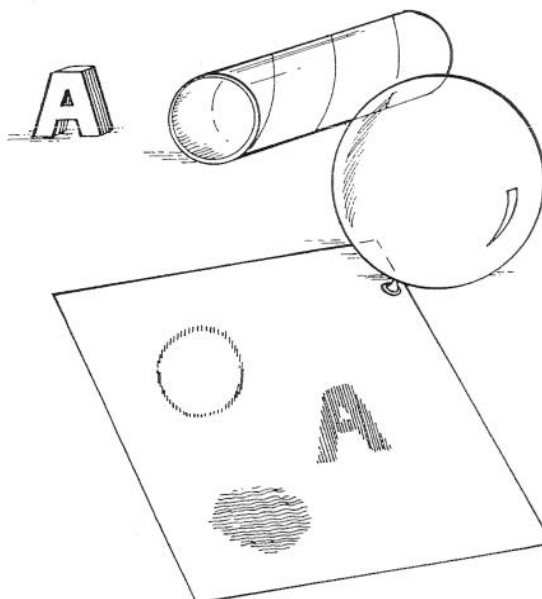
things to use for making prints—kitchen utensils, gadgets, toys, sponges, fingertips or inflated balloons
liquid tempera paints
pan or tray
paper towels
paintbrush
paper
covered work surface

Art Process

1. Place a pad of wet paper towels in the pan or tray.
2. Spread liquid tempera paint on the paper towels for a print pad.
3. Press an object into the paint and then press it onto the paper.
Press the object on the paper several times before replacing it in the paint. Random designs or patterns are two of the design possibilities.
4. Dry the design on the work surface or move the wet design to a drying area.

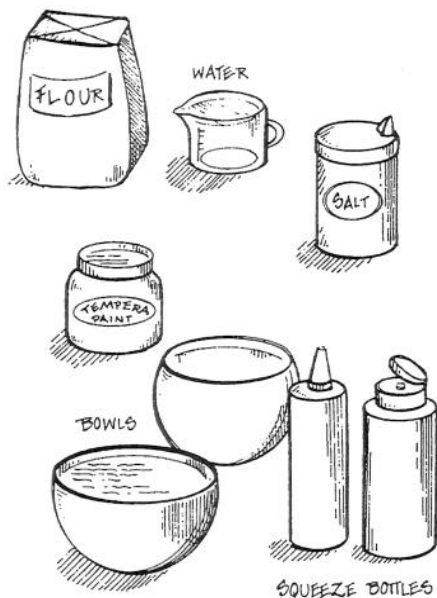
Variations

- Experiment printing with ink, food coloring, watercolor paints, thick and thin tempera paint or paper or fabric dye.
- Make wrapping paper, a wall hanging, greeting cards, a framed poster or simply enjoy the artwork and eventually discard.
- Wrap string around a block of wood or toilet paper tube for a string print.
- Cut cardboard shapes and glue to a block of wood for a relief print.



- HINT**
- Encourage young artists to press the object gently into the paint and then onto the paper because it makes a better print. Some young minds think that the harder and louder you whack the object into the paint and then onto the paper, the more impressive the print will be.

Paint Dough



Materials

flour
water
salt
liquid tempera paint
measuring cup
bowls, mixing spoons
posterboard or matte board
plastic squeeze bottles

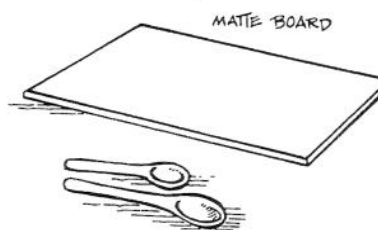
Art Process

1. Mix equal parts of flour, salt and water to form a paste consistency.
2. Add paint to desired color. Make several different colors.
3. Pour each paint mixture into a plastic squeeze bottle.
4. Squeeze paint onto the posterboard or matte board to make designs.
5. Dry the completed project. The salt gives the designs a glistening crystal quality when dry.



• Different colors of paint mixtures will not mix together when colors bump into each other. They maintain their own separate design and space, which is different from regular paints.

• Paint mixture can dry and harden in squeeze bottles so rinse bottles clean when project is complete.



Shiny Painting

Materials

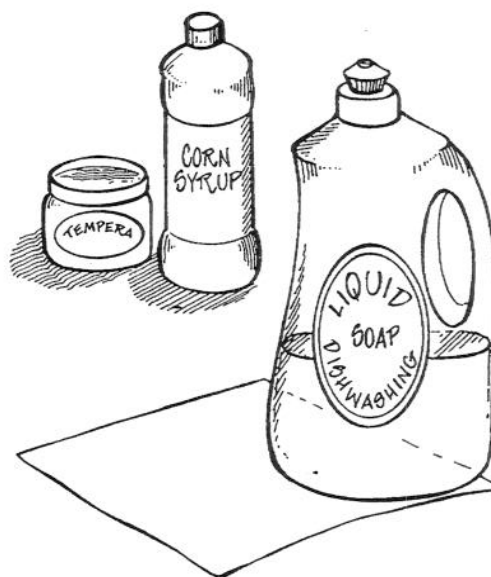
Paint mixture: liquid tempera paint for color, 4 tablespoons corn syrup, 1-1/2 teaspoons liquid dishwashing soap
matte board or cardboard
paint brushes
mixing spoons
small containers

Art Process

1. Make the paint mixture of liquid tempera paint, corn syrup and dishwashing soap. Place the paint in small containers.
2. Paint freely with the mixture using any painting approach on matte board or cardboard for a sturdy base.

Variations

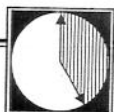
- Dip string or yarn into the Shiny Paint and press between sheets of paper for a shiny yarn design. Then, remove yarn.
- Place paper in a baking pan and roll marbles through puddles of Shiny Paint.
- Use the Shiny Paint on white or colored tissue paper to create wrapping paper.



• This paint is very pretty and glossy which makes it nice for holiday themes.

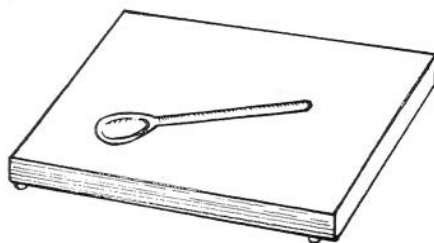
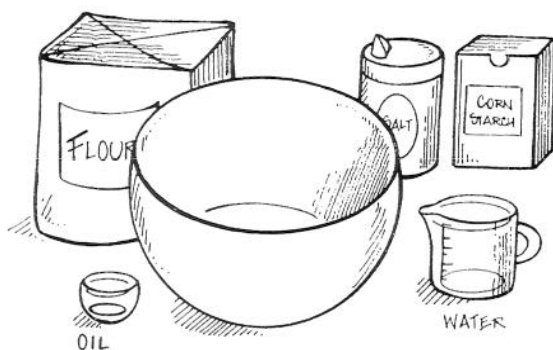
• This paint is also very sticky and dries slower than regular paint.





No-Cook Playdough

CLAY



Materials

measuring cups and spoons
1 cup (230 ml) cold water
1 cup (200 g) salt
2 teaspoons oil
3 cups (600 g) flour
2 tablespoons cornstarch
powdered paint or food coloring
bowl and spoon
cutting board

Art Process

1. In a bowl mix the water, salt, oil and enough powdered paint to make a bright color. Dough can also be left white.
2. Gradually work flour and cornstarch into the mixture until it reaches a bread dough consistency.
3. Pour the dough on a cutting board and knead.
4. Use this dough to model as with any clay.

Variation

- Color the dough with food coloring or paste coloring.

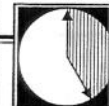


HINT • This quick and easy clay does not dry well but is a pliable, bright and colorful modeling clay.



BASICS

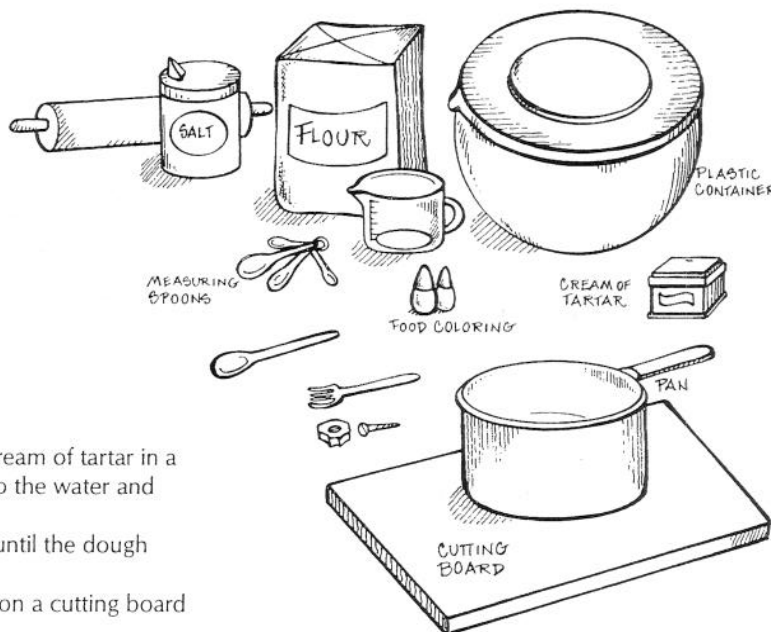
Cooked Playdough



CLAY

Materials

measuring cups and spoons
1 cup (200 g) flour
1 cup (200 g) salt
1 cup (230 ml) water
1 tablespoon cream of tartar
food coloring
pan
stove
spoon
cutting board
cooking utensils for sculpting and play
plastic container with lid for storage



Art Process

1. With an adult, mix the flour, water, salt and cream of tartar in a pan. (For colored dough, add food coloring to the water and mix with the other ingredients.)
2. **Adult** places the pan over low heat and stirs until the dough forms a ball.
3. Remove the pan from the heat, pour the ball on a cutting board and knead until smooth and pliable.
4. Give the warm dough to the artist to begin sculpting, exploring, playing and creating. Provide any variety of utensils and tools for exploration such as a rolling pin or wooden dowel, cookie cutters, a fork, nuts and bolts or a garlic press.
5. The dough can be stored in a plastic container for a week or so.



HINT • When playdough begins to crack and crumble, it's time for a fresh batch.
• Double this recipe for twice as much fun.

BASICS

Sponge Chalk

Materials

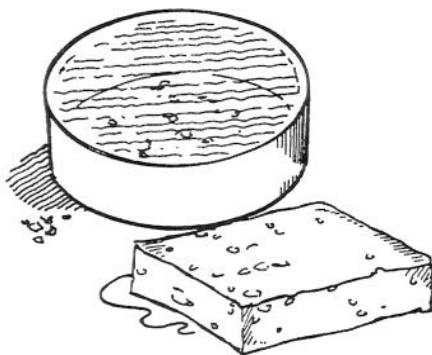
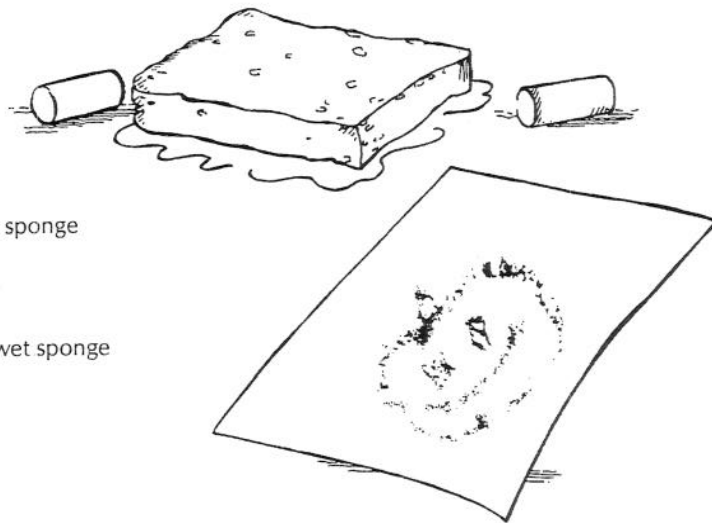
large, flat wet sponge
colored chalk
paper

Art Process

1. Draw freely on the wet sponge with chalk.
2. Press the sponge onto paper to transfer a print of the sponge design to the paper.

Variation

- Grind, crush or grate chalk into a dish. Dip pieces of wet sponge into the chalk and dab them on the paper.



HINT • Chalk breaks often which is perfectly chalk-like. Just use the small pieces until they are too small to hold. Save the tiny pieces to grind or crush into powder for other art projects.

Chalk Paint

Materials

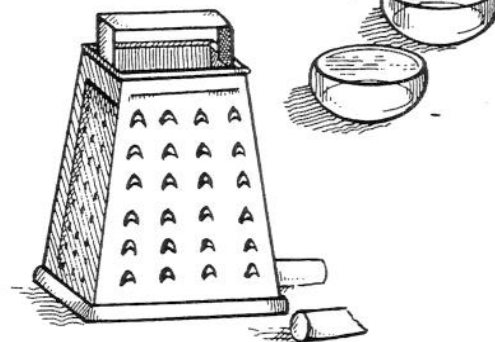
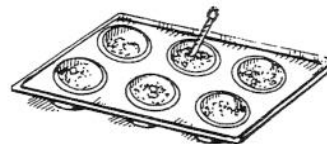
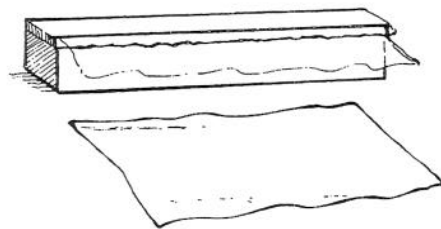
cheese grater
colored chalk
wax paper square
muffin tin
cotton swabs
water in small dishes
paper

Art Process

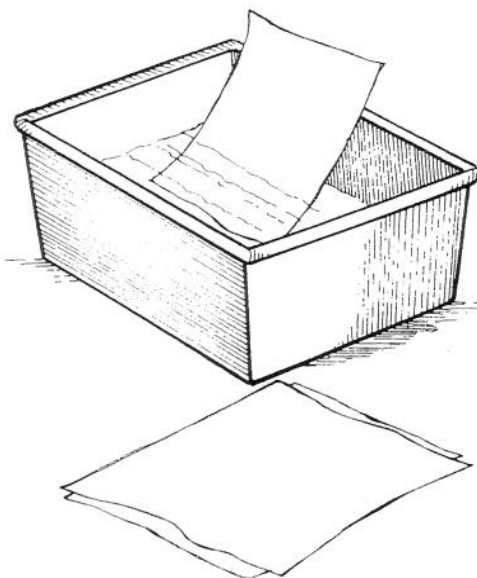
1. **Adult** helps the artist grate colored chalk onto a square of wax paper. Shake the chalk gratings into a muffin cup.
2. Dip a cotton swab into water and then into the powdered, grated chalk and paint on the paper freely.
3. Dry the project completely.

Variations

- Put powdered tempera paint in separate muffin cups. Paint by dipping cotton swabs in the water and then into the powdered paint.
- Experiment with other drawing or painting tools such as a paintbrush, feather or finger.
- Work on paper that has been pre-moistened with water, butter-milk or a mixture of liquid starch and canned milk.



HINT • For a fine powdered chalk, crush the chalk with a hammer or rock instead of using a cheese grater.
• Art chalk works better than the dustless chalkboard variety of chalk.



Materials

dish pan with about 4" (10 cm) of water in it
poster chalk or pastels
assorted papers
newspaper

Art Process

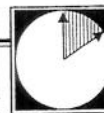
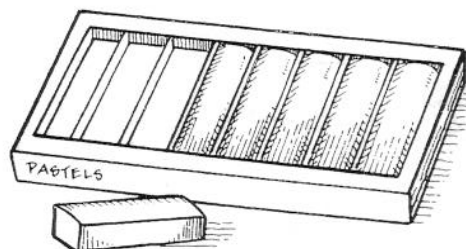
1. Dip the paper into the water, thoroughly coating it with water. Place it on a dry table.
2. Draw with dry chalk on the wet paper.
3. Experiment with different textures and types of paper.
4. Lift the completed project from the table.
5. Dry on newspaper for one or two days.

Variations

- Experiment with a paintbrush dipped in clear water on dry paper. Paint a design with the water and then draw with chalk on the watery design.
- Try rubbing the chalk drawing with a cotton ball or tissue to smudge, blend or smear.



- HINT**
- Chalk behaves somewhat like paint on wet paper; it can be blended or smeared.
 - Sometimes it helps to break large pieces of chalk in half or into smaller pieces for younger artists.



Wet Chalk Drawing

Materials

sugar solution (1/3 cup – 70g – sugar to 1 cup – 230ml – water)
container for sugar-water
poster chalk
paper
hair spray, optional

Art Process

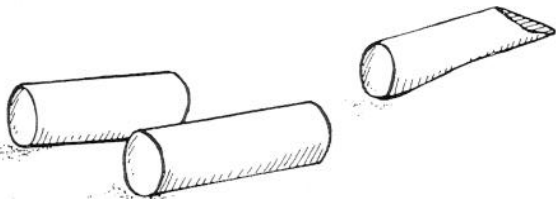
1. Soak poster chalk overnight in sugar solution.
2. Draw with the wet chalk on paper.
3. The sugar-water helps brighten the chalk colors and keeps the drawing from smearing as much.
4. Dry the completed art project.
5. An **adult** can spray the completed drawing with hair spray (outside) if a non-smear drawing is desired.

Variation

- Dip the end of dry chalk into the sugar solution and draw with the dampened chalk.



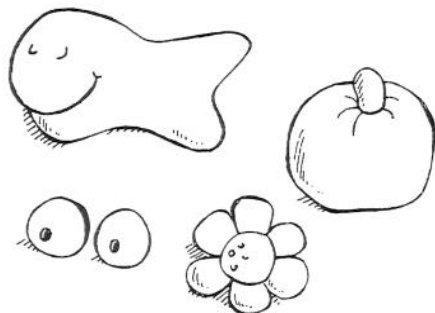
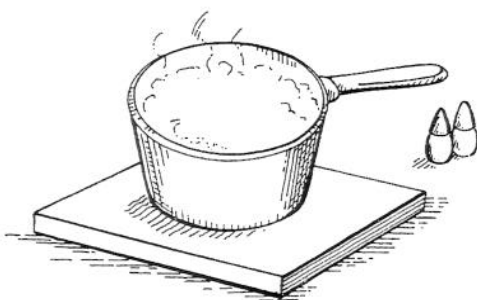
- HINT**
- Keep in mind that chalk has unique qualities. It breaks easily; it smudges; it does not act like crayon; it can be brushed with a cotton ball, cotton swab or tissue; its colors can be blended, used brightly or lightly; it can be crushed and used as powder; powdered chalks can be mixed to make new chalk colors; it is messy and beautiful.



ALL
ages

Playful Clay

CLAY



BASICS



- HINT**
- This recipe makes one and one-half cups of dough. It can be doubled easily.
 - The dough stores in an airtight container for several weeks but will dry out if exposed to the air.
 - This material hardens quickly.

Materials

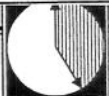
measuring cups
pan
1 cup (200 g) baking soda
1/2 cup (100 g) cornstarch
2/3 cup (150 g) warm water
stove
cutting board
food coloring or tempera paints
newspaper
clear nail polish, optional

Art Process

1. Mix baking soda and cornstarch in a pan.
2. Add water and stir until smooth.
3. **Adult** places the pan over medium heat. Boil and stir until the consistency of mashed potatoes. Pour the mixture onto the cutting board to cool.
4. Knead the dough when cool.
5. For color, knead food coloring into clay until blended. Objects may also be painted when completely dry.
6. Explore and create with the Playful Clay.
7. When objects are complete, harden or dry on newspaper for several hours.
8. For a shine, **adult** paints the dry objects with clear nail polish.

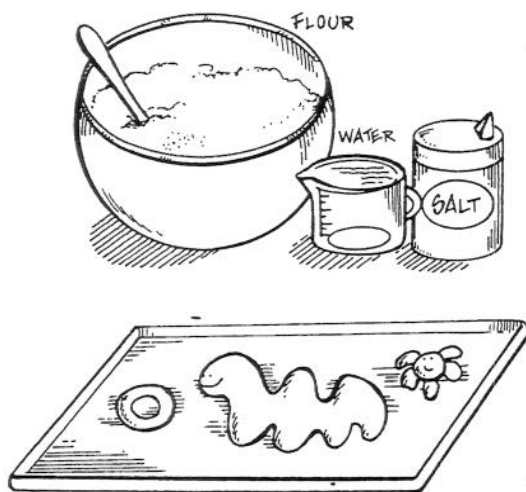
Variation

- Crush colored chalk and knead into the dough for a speckled coloring.

ALL
ages

Craft Clay

CLAY



BASICS



- HINT**
- Work directly on a baking sheet to prevent tearing or breaking the objects when moving them.
 - Breaks and cracks in baked pieces can be repaired with white glue forced into the crack or fresh dough can be pressed between broken pieces, re-baked and

Materials

4 cups (800 g) flour
1 cup (200 g) salt
bowl
1-1/2 cups (345 ml) warm water
wooden spoon

baking sheet
cutting board
plastic wrap
foil or wax paper
oven

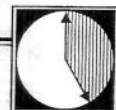
Art Process

1. Combine the flour and salt in a bowl.
2. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and pour in one cup warm water. Mix the dough with your hands.
3. Add more water and continue mixing. The dough should not be crumbly or sticky, but should form a ball.
4. Knead the dough on a floured board until smooth (about five minutes).
5. Work with a small portion of dough at a time on a piece of foil or wax paper. Keep the rest of the dough wrapped in plastic and in the refrigerator. (If it dries out, add a few drops of water and knead.) All dough parts should be joined together with water, using a brush or fingers.
6. When a sculpture or object is complete, **adult** places it on a foil covered baking sheet and bakes at 325 degrees one hour or until hard. Dough should not "give" when tapped with a knife.

Variation

- Some ideas for things to make include napkin rings; jewelry; beads; pretend rolls, bread, bagels; pretend fruits, vegetables and play foods; picture frames; bugs and insects; animals or

Soap Clay



SCULPTURE

Materials

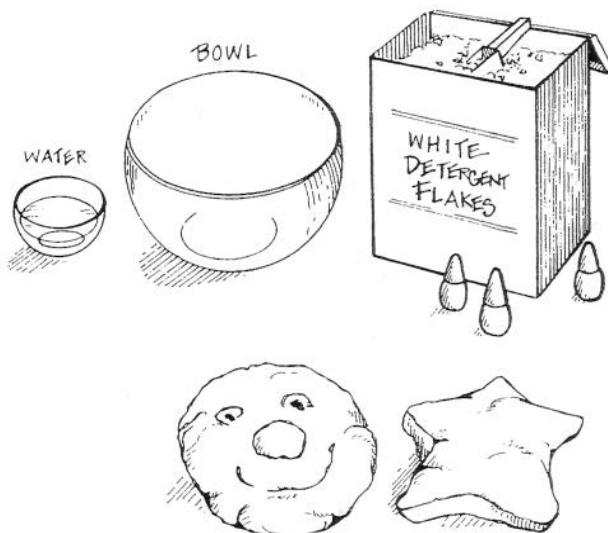
- 2 cups (400 g) white detergent flakes (such as Ivory Snow)
- 2 tablespoons water
- food coloring, optional
- bowl

Art Process

1. Pour detergent in a bowl.
2. Add water or colored water gradually while mixing and squeezing with hands until soap forms a ball.
3. Add more water if necessary.
4. Model and explore Soap Clay, squeezing and forming different shapes.
5. Clean-up is easy with warm water and a towel handy. Hands are already soapy!

Variations

- Make soap balls to use at home or school.
- Give soap balls or soap shapes as gifts.
- Mix natural materials into Soap Clay such as oatmeal or crushed dried flower petals.
- Add fragrance to the Soap Clay with spices such as cinnamon or with extracts such as almond or lemon.
- Try carving the Soap Clay with a spoon, toothpick or other tool.



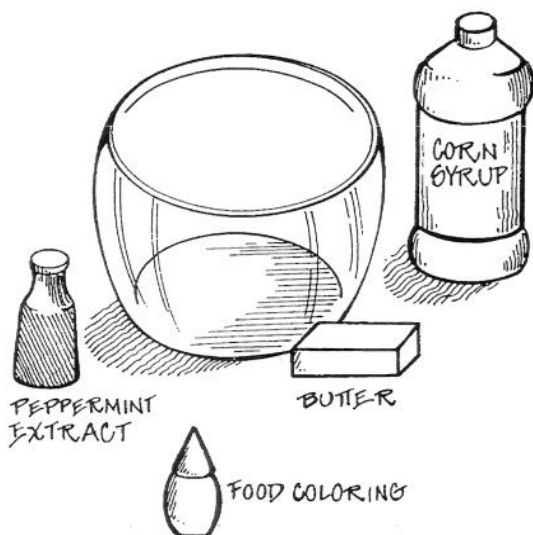
HINT • Once in a while someone will put a soapy finger in his or her mouth. The adult should calmly provide clear water and a cup at the sink. Keep rinsing out the mouth until the taste is gone. If someone gets soap in his or her eye, flood the eye with clear water until the stinging is gone.

BASICS



Sugar Mint Modeling

DOUGH



Materials

Dough Mixture:

- 1/3 cup (70 g) butter or margarine
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 lb. (450 g) powdered sugar (1 box)

- food coloring
- large bowl
- small bowls
- spoons

Art Process

1. Be sure hands are clean before beginning this activity.
2. Mix all the ingredients except the food coloring in a large bowl.
3. Divide the mixture into separate small bowls, one for each color desired.
4. With a spoon, stir drops of food coloring into each bowl.
5. With clean hands, create designs and sculptures with the sugar mint mixture. Combine and mix colors too.
6. Sugar Mint Sculptures are edible but are very very sweet.

Variation

- Experiment with other flavorings such as almond, vanilla or lemon instead of mint.



HINT • Fingers and faces get sticky (surprise!) so have water and towels available. Also, warm little hands can soften the dough substantially; this is when things start to get sticky.

• Sculptures can be refrigerated. They will harden somewhat. Give the finished sculptures as gifts wrapped in cellophane or plastic wrap and tied with a bow. Artists may want to eat their creation right on the spot.



THICK PAINTS

Paintings don't have to be flat. The paint can stick out like on a Van Gogh masterpiece. Spread it on with a butter knife or squeeze it out from a bottle. Use your creative genius and thick paints to create great works of art.



★ SOAP FLAKE PAINT ★

Squeeze or spread this chunky white paint onto paper.

WHAT YOU NEED

1/2 cup (125 ml) soap flakes*

1/4 cup (50 ml) water

Eggbeater

*Homemade soap flakes can be made by grating bar soap. Be sure the bars are absolutely dry. Sift the grates through a mesh sieve for a soft powder.

WHAT YOU DO

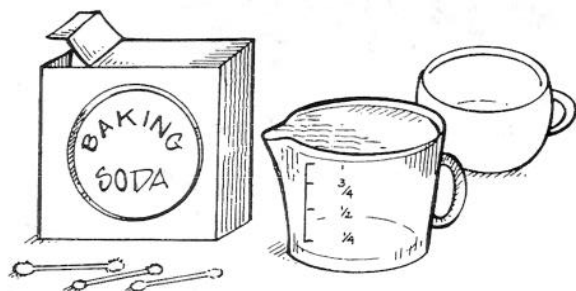
- 1 Add a small amount of soap flakes to the water; then beat.
- 2 Continue adding flakes and beating until mixture is evenly blended.



No squeeze bottle? A plastic zip-style sandwich bag works great. Put a glob of thick paint in the corner of the bag. Zip it closed. Make a tiny snip in the corner of the bag where the glob is sitting. Hold the bag in your fist and squeeze. Experiment for a while to get the feel of controlling the paint flow.



Mystery Paint



Materials

- 4 tablespoons baking soda
- 4 tablespoons water
- cup to mix soda and water
- cotton swabs
- sheet of white paper
- watercolor paint
- paintbrush

Art Process

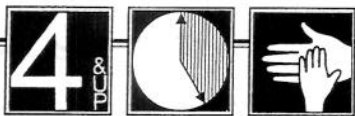
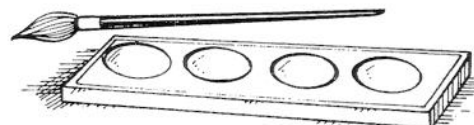
1. Dissolve the baking soda and water in a cup.
2. Dip the cotton swab in the mixture and paint an invisible picture on the white paper.
3. Dry the artwork completely.
4. Brush the watercolor paint over the paper to reveal the mystery picture.

Variations

- Create a secret picture for a friend to reveal with watercolor paint.
- Create a secret message for a friend
- Add crayon to the mystery painting and then brush with water color paint for a mystery wax resist.



Very young artists can be skeptical about painting something they can't see, but soon catch on to the fun.



Snow Paint



Materials

- dark construction paper such as purple and blue
- crayons
- paintbrushes
- 4 tablespoons Epsom salt
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) hot water
- small cups or bowls
- spoons
- covered table

Art Process

1. Mix one-quarter cup hot water with four tablespoons of Epsom salt. Stir the mixture to dissolve.
2. Draw freely with the crayons on the dark construction paper.
3. Brush the drawing with the salt mixture.
4. Dry the painting completely.

Variation

- Cut snowy designs from the paper and hang with string.



- The salt will dry to a snowy, crystal effect.
- Stir the salt water each time a brush is dipped into the container to keep the brush full of very salty water.
- The salt crystals brush off the paper when dry.
- Table salt or rock salt can be substituted for Epsom salt.

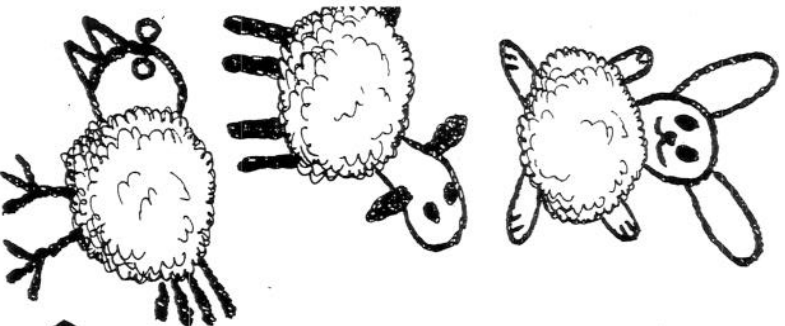


Cotton-ball sheep

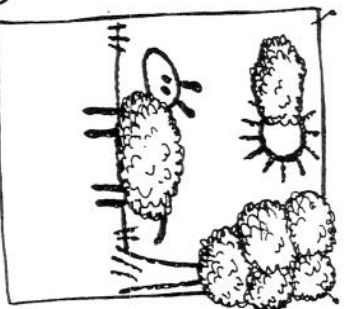
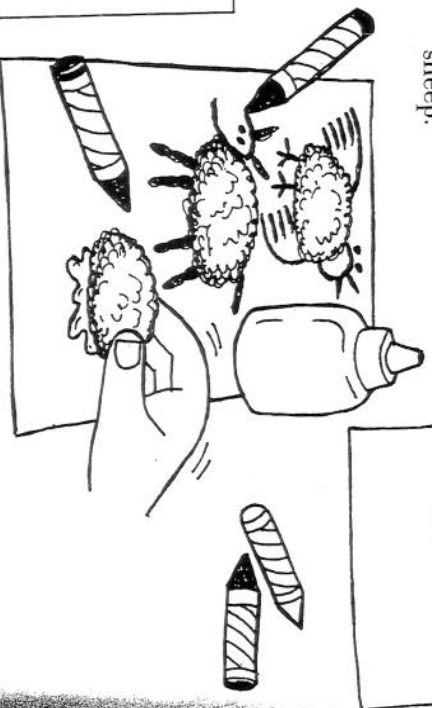
Try this method to make other animals, too – such as bunnies or chicks.

1. Slightly stretch out a cotton ball. You'll find it stretches out easier one way than the other. Glue it on the paper.

3. If you like, you can create a whole scene. Add cotton-ball clouds and draw on more details, such as shrubs and grass.



2. Draw on legs, a tail and a head. Make more sheep.



More cotton-ball fun

Snow scene

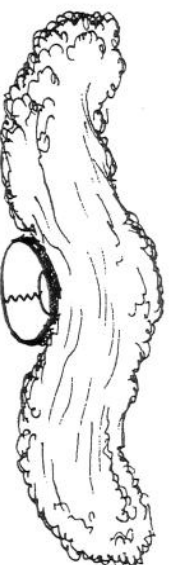
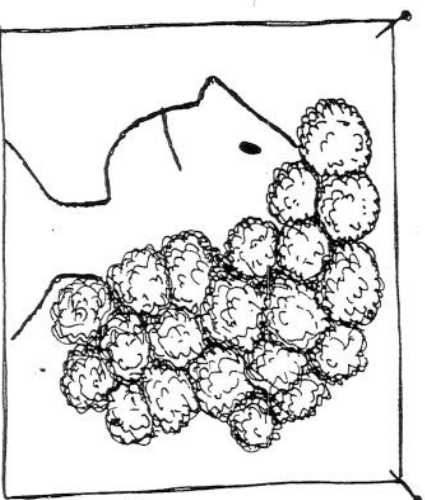
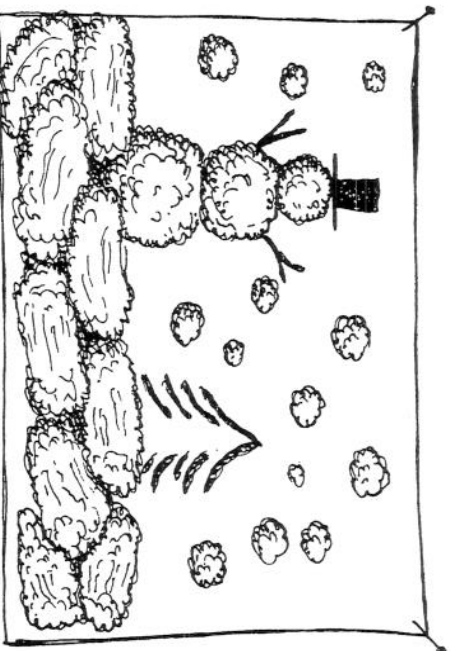
Create a snowy landscape. Use two or more cotton balls to make a snowman. Draw on details. Pull apart cotton balls to look like snow on the ground. Roll up bits of cotton for snowflakes falling from cotton-ball clouds.

Cotton-ball trim

Draw a picture of a person. Glue on cotton-ball hair or a cotton-ball mustache and beard. Also, draw a hat and glue on fluffy, white trim. Use cotton balls on masks and costumes, too.

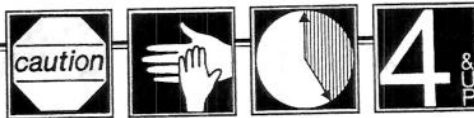
Mustache

Stretch out a cotton ball. Loop a piece of masking tape on the back and try on your ticky mustache!



You will need
 cotton balls
 construction paper
 white craft glue
 markers or crayons

Baked Stubs

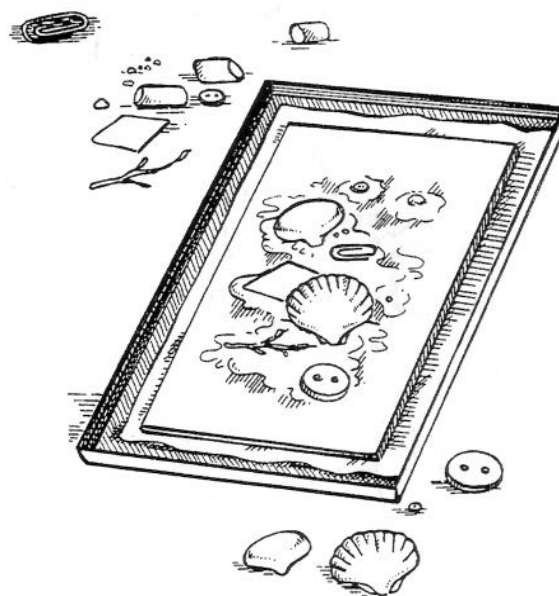


Materials

old crayon stubs, peeled
matte board or cardboard
cookie sheet covered with foil
rocks, shells, felt squares, pieces of wood and other items
hot sunny day or 250 degree oven
craft sticks or coffee stir sticks

Art Process

1. Peel the paper from old broken crayons.
2. Place the matte board or cardboard on the covered cookie sheet.
3. Place peeled crayons on the matte board, randomly or by stacking them.
4. Add rocks or shells in and around the crayons if desired.
5. Leave the arrangement in the hot sun to melt, or an **adult** should place the cookie sheet in a 250 degree oven for about ten minutes.
6. An **adult** should remove the hot sheet from the oven.
7. The artist may wish to push the melted crayon about with the craft sticks before the melted design cools.
8. Cool the design completely. Remove it from the cookie sheet.



HINT



An adult should do all the "hot" steps such as placing the tray in the oven and removing it from the oven. For safety reasons, be sure the tray is reasonably cool before the child pokes at the melted crayons.

DRAWING

Variation

- Melt crayon stubs on felt squares, fabric scraps, thin boards, cardboard or other sturdy papers or materials.



Fuzzy Glue Drawing

Materials

scissors
yarn in contrasting colors to the background
plastic bag or plastic container with lid for yarn snips
white glue in a dish (to color white glue, mix with food coloring or tempera paint)
paintbrush for glue
paper plate or matte board for the base
covered work surface

Art Process

1. Wind some yarn about fifteen times around your fingers. Cut through the end of the loops.
2. Snip small pieces of the yarn one-half inch or smaller into the plastic bag or container. (Cut different lengths or different colors if desired.)
3. Have the artist paint glue over a small area of the base.
4. The artist can choose a color of yarn and pat it down into the glued area.
5. Paint more glue in a different area and pat more yarn into that glue. Continue making glue and yarn designs or continue until the entire base is full.

Variation

- Cut different colors of yarn and draw a picture with a glue bottle to create fuzzy yarn pictures. Always work on small areas rather than large areas so glue won't dry out before the yarn has been attached.

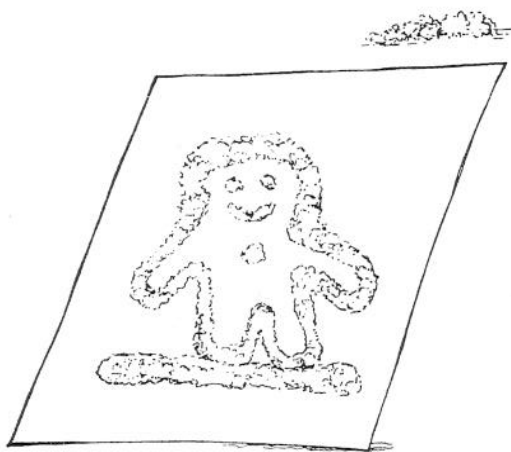
HINT



The one trick to a successful project is to spread the glue onto the base and press the yarn into the glue. Do not dip the yarn into the glue in the dish.

Adults can help with hand-wiping and yarn-snipping but the artists should draw and cover the glue pictures.

DRAWING



Metal Cloth Stitchery



Materials

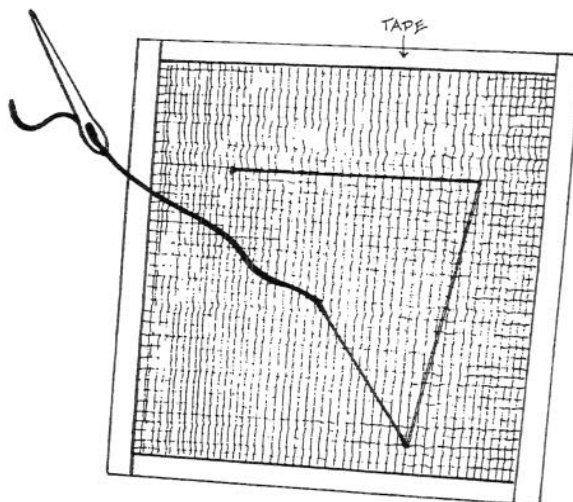
6" x 6" (15 cm x 15 cm) square of metal cloth (sometimes called hardware cloth, available at hardware stores)
yarn, string or embroidery floss
blunt, plastic yarn needle
masking tape

Art Process

1. **Adult** tapes the edges of the hardware cloth with masking tape to prevent hurt fingers.
2. Using a needle strung with yarn, string or floss, push the needle in and out of the holes. Create any patterns or designs.
3. Add other colors.
4. Tie or tape the yarn on the back of the hardware cloth when complete.

Variations

- Other items can be stitched into the design such as old beads, feathers, bits of paper or confetti.
- Pieces of ribbon or lace can be woven through the stitchery if desired.
- A needle is not necessary if the end of the yarn is taped with masking tape to resemble a needle.



- Metal cloth is a screen with 1/4" holes. It is often used for the tops of hamster cages. An alternative is soffet screen, a more pliable screen on a roll.
- Young artists always have difficulty if the yarn is too long. An arms length of yarn is a good length to use. An adult should be handy to help change yarns or thread needles during the sewing step.

Wood Sculpture

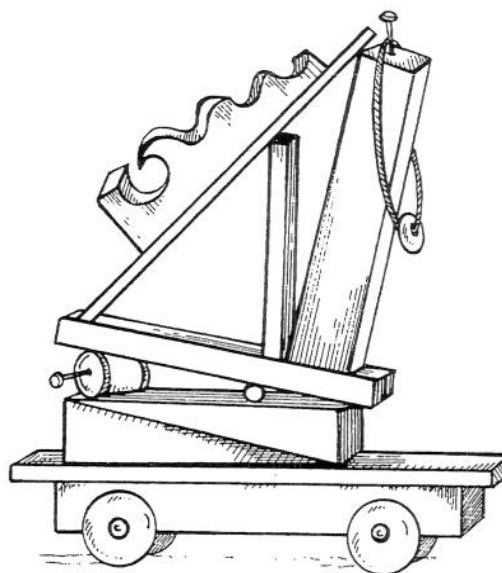


Materials

scraps of wood (see hints below)
matte board cardboard or square of wood for base, optional
white glue
decorating items such as tempera paint, glitter, confetti, ribbon, nails, felt pens, nuts and bolts, pieces of straws, pieces of old toys, rubber bands or bits of collage materials

Art Process

1. Collect scraps of wood from a high school shop class or a picture frame shop. Wood shop classes using jig-saws can save curved, puzzle-like and unusually shaped pieces that are creative treasures when making wood sculptures.
2. Work on a base of matte board or a square of wood if desired.
3. Glue pieces of scrap wood together much like building with blocks. (For quicker and stronger sculptures, an adult can handle a glue gun for the artist. This technique must be supervised closely.)
4. Let the sculpture dry overnight.
5. When dry, the artist may choose to decorate or paint the sculpture.



- If a sculpture is top heavy or unbalanced, white glue won't hold well. Add some masking tape, rubber bands or other supports until the glue has set. Remove the supports when the project is completely dry.

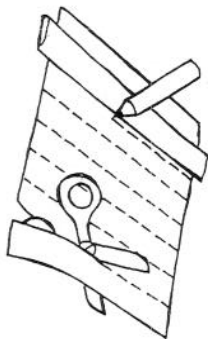
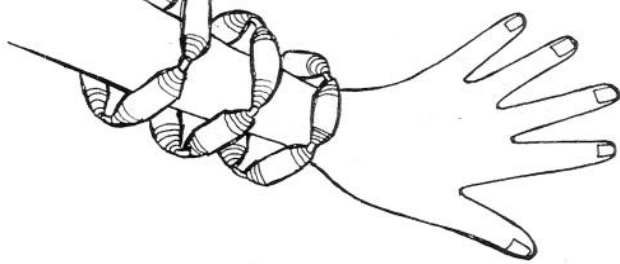
Variations

- Build a specific object such as a house, bridge or car.
- Combine several sculptures with identical bases to make a large sculpture. Sculptures can be displayed on a wall.

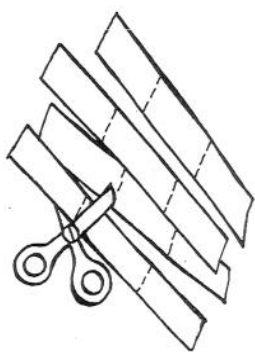
Drinking-straw beads

To make these beads, you can use leftover pieces of wrapping paper, colorful magazine and catalog pages, construction paper or any other scrap paper.

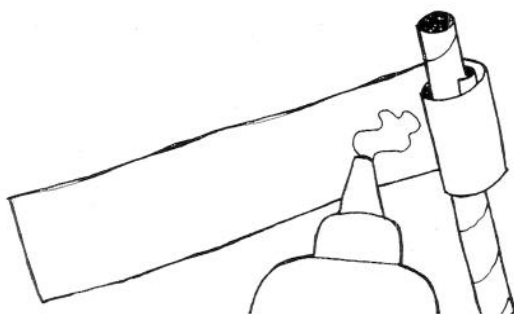
1. You can use a pencil and ruler to mark straight lines for cutting, or simply cut strips of paper. The strips can be as wide or narrow as you'd like your beads to be.
3. Begin winding one end of a strip of paper onto a straw. Spread a little glue on the paper as you go.



2. If your strips are long, cut them into pieces about 8 cm (3 in.) long.



You will need
 paper
 scissors, a ruler,
 pencil and white craft
 glue or a glue stick
 drinking straws



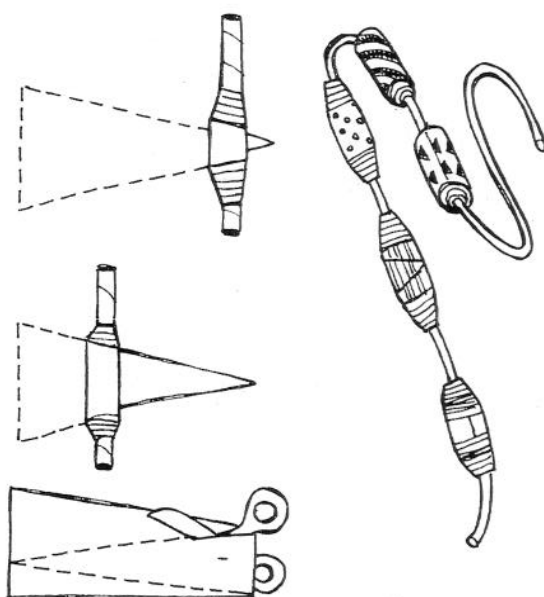
More ideas

Wind more than one color of paper to make a bead. Begin with a wide strip. When you finish rolling it onto a straw, dab a bit of glue on it and wind a narrower strip around it. Add a third or fourth layer if you wish.

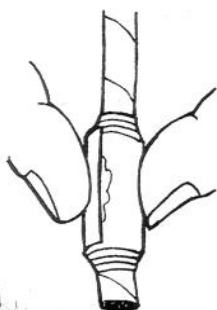
Cut long triangles of paper. To make the beads, wind the wide end of a triangle around the straw. Guide the paper as you roll so the point of the triangle ends up in the middle of the bead.

If you'd like shiny beads, coat them with acrylic varnish or a sealer product, such as Podgy or Mod Podge, while they're still on the straws.

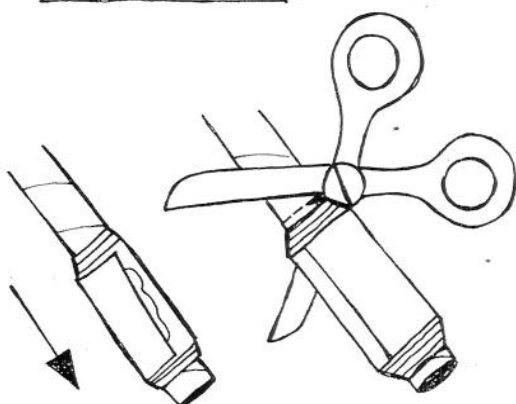
Thread your beads onto elastic cord, plastic lace or yarn to make a necklace or a bracelet.



4. When you are near the end, spread a little more glue on the strip, then finish rolling it. Hold the paper for a moment while the glue dries.



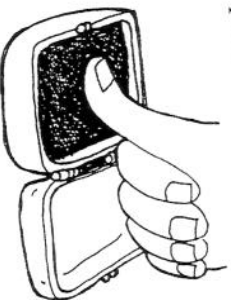
5. Slide the bead off the straw, or cut off the straw on each side of the bead. Make lots more beads!



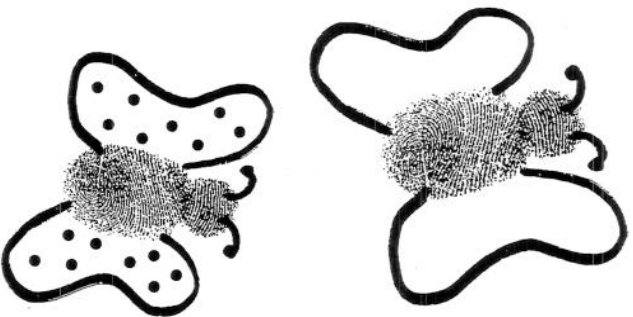
Thumbbuddies

Use a stamp pad with non-toxic, washable ink so your hands don't get stained.

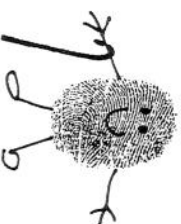
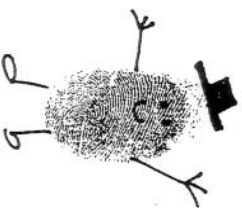
1. Press the pad of your thumb onto the stamp pad.



3. What other characters can you make? How about a row of fingerprints to make a caterpillar? Or a thumbprint and fingerprint for a butterfly body and you add the wings?



2. Press your thumb onto paper. Use a pen or marker to draw a face, arms and legs. You can add other features, too, such as a hat or a cane.

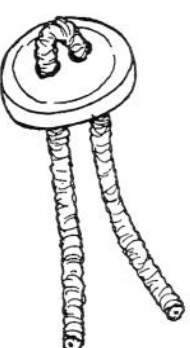


You will need
 an ink stamp pad
 paper
 markers or a pen

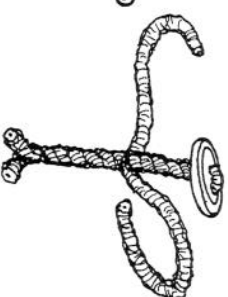
Button bouquet

Here's a chance to use some of those extra-large buttons from the button box.

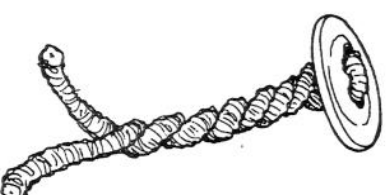
1. Fold a pipe cleaner in half. Thread on a button so it sits at the bent end of the pipe cleaner.



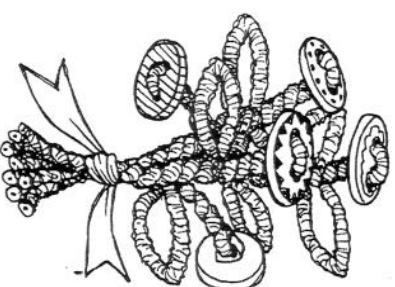
3. To make leaves, twist a green pipe cleaner around the stem. Shape the ends into leaves.



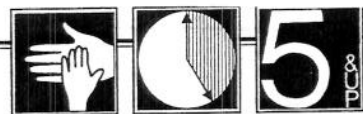
2. Twist the folded pipe cleaner together all the way down its length.



4. Make more button flowers. Tie them together with a ribbon if you like or place them in a vase.



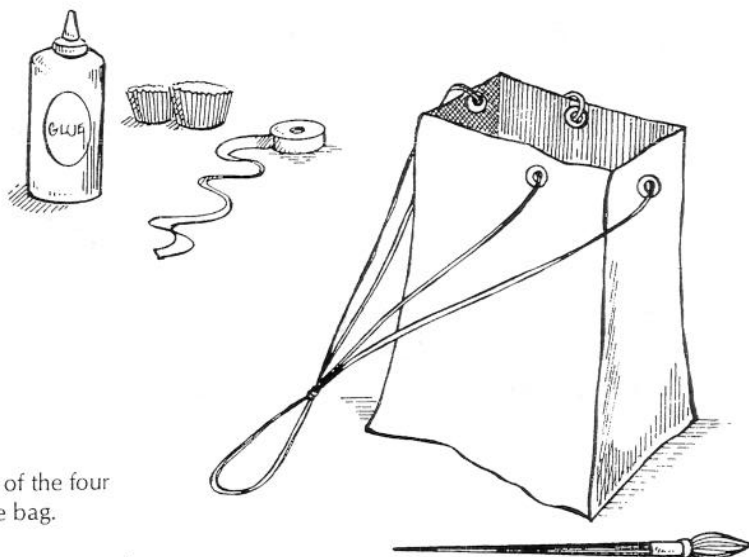
You will need
 pipe cleaners
 large buttons
 ribbon (optional)



Paper Bag Kite

Materials

large paper grocery bag
string
stick-on paper reinforcements
hole punch
paints and brushes
white glue
paper scraps and collage materials
tissue paper
crepe paper
streamers
ribbons
paper liners for muffin tins or candy cups



Art Process

1. Punch four holes in the paper bag, one on each of the four corners about one-half inch from the edge of the bag.
2. Stick a reinforcement circle on each hole.
3. Cut two pieces of string to about 36" (1 m) length. Tie each end of one string into a reinforced hole to form a loop. Make a loop with the second string.
4. Cut another piece of string to about 36" (1 m) long. Put it through the two loops and tie it. (This will be the kite handle.)
5. Paint the bag as desired. Allow the paint to completely dry.
6. Glue paper collage materials and streamers to the paper bag kite. Dry the kite completely.
7. Open the bag. Hold onto the string and run. The wind will catch in the bag and the kite will fly out and above the artist.



- For the strongest and most successful kite experience, the bag must dry completely between painting, decorating and flying.
- Adult assistance is needed when tying the string to the bag but the decorating and flying is completely child centered.
- Add extra reinforcements or clear contact paper to the holes to make the kite last longer.

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- NOTES -